



**August 2019**

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

## Town Square Park Playground

The Town Square Park playground has been upgraded to replace equipment that was in poor condition and to add new equipment. We want to thank the equipment vendor, Landscape Structures, for donating the Omni Spin inclusive play equipment shown in the bottom photo. The new play equipment will be enjoyed by the many children who visit Town Square Park.



## CITY MEETINGS

**August 5, 2019**

Planning Commission Meeting  
7:00 P.M.

**August 6, 2019**

Natural Resources & Groundwater  
5:30 P.M.

**August 20, 2019**

City Council Meeting  
7:00 P.M.

**August 21, 2019**

Heritage Preservation Commission  
5:00 P.M.

**August 28, 2019**

Parks Committee  
6:00 P.M.

*All meetings are held at City Hall  
unless otherwise noted.*

## 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 651-436-1346

Ward 4: Randy Nelson 651-436-2479

## CITY HALL

Monday — Friday

9:00 a.m. — 4:00 p.m.

651-436-5090

## CITY WEBSITE

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

## IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Animal Control 715-386-7789

Building Inspector 651-436-6469

Burning Permits 651-248-5103

Environmental Center 651-275-7475

Highland Sanitation 651-458-0043

Mally's Sunshine Kennel 715-246-2467

LSCV Fire Dept 651-436-7033

Sheriff's Dept 651-439-9381

**EMERGENCY 911**

## A Note from the Natural Resources and Groundwater Committee on Septic Systems

In the Spring 2019 Newsletter from Washington County there is an article that discusses the county's 18,000 Subsurface Sewage Treatment Systems (SSTS) and the program in place to ensure all are adequately protecting groundwater. Washington County residents receive 100% of their drinking water from groundwater. Due to this fact, there is a renewed commitment to protect this valuable resource from any possible negative impacts from failed or failing septic systems.

A [septic system compliance](#) inspection is required by the county before (1) the issuance of a building permit for bedroom and/or bathroom additions, and (2) the transfer of any real property. The City of Afton has added the following triggers for a septic compliance inspection.

1. The City of Afton requires existing septic systems to be inspected for compliance when any building permit application is made for work:
  - A. That has a valuation of over \$75,000; or
  - B. That has a value that is more than 40% of the assessed value of the principal structure on the property.
2. A septic inspection must be conducted to ensure compliance with applicable requirements, unless the owner can document that the septic system has passed an inspection within the last 10 years.

## Notes from the Mayor

Another Asian carp was caught in the St. Croix River recently. In Afton, we are no strangers to invasive species: Amur Maple, the buck-thorn we all struggle with, garlic mustard, emerald ash borer, and zebra mussels to name only a few. The list is long and troubling when we look at the existing or expected impact that will happen if they spread unchecked. But this invader poses a threat of an altogether different magnitude. If populations of the four species that make up what we call "Asian carps" (Big Head, Silver [the flying kind], Grass, and Black) establish in our river and its tributaries the ecosystem as we know it will never be the same. Estimates show that these fish can become 95% of the biomass in an environment where they are able to establish a breeding population.

According to the DNR, what is different with the last few fish that have been detected is that more have been the silver "flying" variety. These carp are not typically caught by people fishing with a rod. Most are found in commercial fishing nets.

The good news is we are aware of this and have seen the devastating impacts downstream so there is a strong desire to not let it happen here. Many groups are working on solutions and recently some initiatives have made it through the funding process at the state level. But as always seems to be the case for issues of this magnitude, the time to act was yesterday. And we as a community who place such value on our environment need to remain vigilant and vocal to make sure our elected representatives are doing all that can be done to keep these carp out. We must also ensure they are focused on, and funding, efforts to limit or control the long list of invasive species that threaten our woods, prairies, and waterways. Let them know this is an issue we care about and one that needs their immediate attention.

It has been an unusual spring and early summer to say the least. The State Fair is now only weeks away. Early August marks the start of the hard ragweed season for those who suffer from allergies. I hope we can catch a break in that department this year. August is also the time when the hummingbird moth (white-lined sphinx moth) shows up for those lucky enough to spot one. I have only seen one and that was several years ago. Keep an eye out. According to the Friends of the Mississippi they are attracted to bergamot, vervain, phlox, and honeysuckle. But as they point out, just be sure to buy native plants, some honeysuckle bushes sold in stores are exotic invasives.

Hope you enjoy the rest of the summer!

-Bill

### ROAD CONSTRUCTION

#### County Highway 21 (Stagecoach Trail S.)

Washington County will be replacing the culvert on CSAH 21 (Stagecoach Trail S.) at Valley Branch Creek. Construction is anticipated to continue through August 15, 2019. The overall goal of the project is to replace the deteriorated culvert, improve the driving surface, and add shoulders to enhance safety.

The road will be completely closed north of 15th Street during this period. During this time, traffic will be routed around the construction area via detour. The official detour route consists of St. Croix Trail and Hudson Road.

### Part-Time Maintenance Worker Wanted

City of Afton, part-time maintenance position  
Pay rate: \$11.00 to \$12.75 per hour. Approximately 15-20 hours per week. General public works and parks maintenance, as well as cleaning and routine maintenance of the Afton City Hall. Requires experience operating lawn tractors, chainsaws and weedwhips. Must be a high school graduate or equivalent and possess a valid driver's license with satisfactory driving record. Must be 18 years of age or older and able to lift/move 30 pounds. Position changes to City Hall maintenance only, over the winter at two hours per week. An application is available at the City Hall or online at [www.ci.afton.mn.us](http://www.ci.afton.mn.us). For consideration drop off, mail, fax or email completed application to: City of Afton, Attn: Ron Moore, 3033 St. Croix Trail S., P.O. Box 219, Afton, MN 55001, Fax: 651-436-1453, Email: [administrator@ci.afton.mn.us](mailto:administrator@ci.afton.mn.us). Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

### Guided morning Bird Hikes continue with August 10 hike

A rotating schedule of bird hikes throughout Washington County Parks continue, with a hike 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 10, at St. Croix Bluffs Regional Park. Hikers should park in the hilltop picnic pavilion parking lot, and meet at the Hilltop Pavilion.

Learn to identify the birds that call the St. Croix Valley home and contribute to citizen science data collection by completing bird count surveys with the guide. The surveys collected will assist the county's Natural Resources team and related work in conjunction with the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Fund grant.

The hike will traverse turf, gravel, and paved trail depending on trail conditions. Participants should bring binoculars and dress for hiking and the weather. This program is free with a parks vehicle permit (\$7/daily or \$30/annually), and is open to people of all ages and abilities. ADA accommodations can be made as needed. All minors must be accompanied by an adult.

[www.co.washington.mn.us/parks](http://www.co.washington.mn.us/parks).

## July Meeting Highlights

### July 8, 2019 Planning Commission Meeting

#### The Commission:

- Held a public hearing for the Kerry White application for Minor Subdivision at 1132 Indian Trail.
- Held a public hearing for the Rebecca Enos application for a variance at 15234 Afton Hills Drive.
- Held a public hearing for the Kathy and David Boisjoli application for an Ordinance Amendment and a Conditional Use Permit for a commercial riding stable at 15489 45th Street.
- Reviewed elements of the PLCD Ordinance language.

### July 16, 2019 City Council Meeting

#### The Council:

- Approved an application for a Minor Subdivision from Kerry & Judy White at 1132 Indian Trail.
- Approved an application for a Variance from Rebecca Enos at 15234 Afton Hills Ct.
- Received an update from the City Engineer on the Afton Creek Preserve Construction.
- Approved the snowplowing contract extension with Tri County Services.
- Approved additional patrols for speed enforcement.

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

### Saturday, August 10, 2019

#### Youth Adaptive Program

10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

In partnership with Woodbury Parks and Recreation, youth with special needs will visit Belwin's ADA accessible trails and wetlands, and explore ponds and streams to discover what is living in these watery habitats. Using nets and buckets, the class will try to capture frogs as well as a variety of insects and other macro invertebrates. This trip will be led by Cathy Smith, Belwin Outdoor Science's licensed special education teacher with 34 years of experience.

#### Information:

Limited to 8 participants with special needs; must be students entering grades 3-6. \$35/student with adult chaperone. Use activity keyword "Belwin" to register via Woodbury Parks and Recreation Department. Belwin Conservancy, 1553 Stagecoach Trail S., Afton

[www.belwin.org/events/282/](http://www.belwin.org/events/282/)

### Saturday, August 17 and Sunday, August 18, 2019

#### NEW EVENT! Music in the Trees

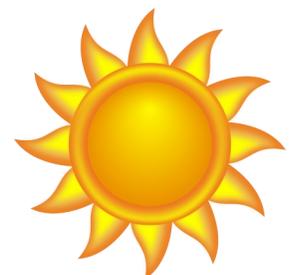
11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Celebrate new life and mourn the death of a four-acre red pine grove adjacent to Belwin's Education Center. Audiences at this free, two-day outdoor event will experience music performed at five stations, including a special performance at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 18, featuring the Center for Hmong Arts and Talent (CHAT).

#### Information:

Free and open to everyone. Belwin Conservancy Education Center, 1553 Stagecoach Trail S., Afton  
 651-436-5189, [www.belwin.org](http://www.belwin.org)

Belwin Conservancy  
 651-436-5189  
[www.belwin.org](http://www.belwin.org)



## Yellow Ribbon Alliance Lower St. Croix Valley Fundraising Event for Military Families

### FIELD OF BANDS



Saturday, September 14, 2019; 12 NOON until 8PM

FEATURING NATIONAL and AWARD WINNING BAND,  
 SFO, PLAYING MUSIC OF JOURNEY, KANSAS, and FOREIGNER!  
 ALSO FEATURING THE MUSIC OF WESTSIDE and BAD WEATHER!!



### WASHINGTON COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

12300 40th St. N., Stillwater, MN 55082

TICKETS \$15.00 IN ADVANCE; \$20.00 DAY OF SHOW;  
 KIDS 12 & UNDER FREE

TICKETS AVAILABLE ON WEBSITE:

[WWW.5CITYYELLOWRIBBON.COM](http://WWW.5CITYYELLOWRIBBON.COM)

EVENT WILL HAPPEN  OR 

SPONSORS INCLUDE:   
PH 921 PH 1023 PH 1073402 44740



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



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## Valley Library Featured Events for August 2019

### Stranger Things Escape Room Friday, August 2 from 2 to 4 p.m.

It's the year 1984, and some strange things have been happening in the town of Hawkins, Indiana. In fact, one of your best friends went missing a few days ago, and you have discovered that he was taken by a monster called the Demogorgon to an alternate parallel dimension, the Upside Down. You only have 30 minutes. Follow the clues, find your gear, and save your friend! Registration required. There will be three groupings for this escape room program with 4 to 6 people in each group. Each group will have 30 minutes to escape the room. Please sign up by calling Valley Library at 651-436-5882.

### Tape Town Family Storytime and Free Play Monday, August 5 from 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.

For this very special story time we will read city and community themed stories and create masking tape roads through the kid's area and have a kid sized car wash children can go through themselves. No registration required.

### STEM Saturdays: Float Your Boat Saturday, August 17 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

In this STEM Saturdays program at Valley Library, your challenge is to build tinfoil boats and test different designs to see how many pennies you can load without sinking your boat. Let's dive in! No registration required.

**Full Calendar of Events:**  
[www.washcolib.org](http://www.washcolib.org)  
Valley Branch Library  
380 St. Croix Trail South  
Lakeland, MN 55043  
651-436-5882

**PATRON  
AFTON, MN 55001**

You may view this newsletter

**IN COLOR**  
on the city website.



*Please recycle this  
newsletter after use.*

## Opportunity for Afton Residents to Purchase Solar Garden Subscriptions



You're Invited  
**NES Solar  
Open House**  
Wednesday  
Aug 28, 2019  
6:30 p.m.



**Come learn how NES can help you go green.**

**City of Afton – City Hall**  
3033 St Croix  
Afton, Minn., 55001

Hosted by: NES Team

Come learn about NES's money-saving services, which include:

- Offering savings with a local, community solar garden subscription
- Conducting free energy-conservation audits
- Providing turn-key solar solutions
- Leasing or buying your land for community solar gardens

**All of our services save you money with no upfront costs!**

NES along with Novel Energy Construction is your One-stop Energy Shop.



Light refreshments will be provided.

NOVEL ENERGY SOLUTIONS, LLC  
2303 Wycliff Street • St. Paul, MN, 55114 • [info@novelenergy.biz](mailto:info@novelenergy.biz)

City of Afton

Find us on Facebook!

