



September 2016

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

FREE Well water testing for NITRATES — THIS FALL

WHO: The City of Afton, in past years, has run a well water testing program to determine the distribution of nitrate concentrations in Afton. This year the program is being expanded to determine baseline nitrate levels in the Village before hookups to the community septic system. Periodic resampling of wells in the Village will be done to determine trends of water-quality improvement from the new septic system. **Please contact City Hall, 651-436-5090, by September 15 to participate in this year's drinking water sampling; past participants must contact us to indicate whether they will remain in the program.**

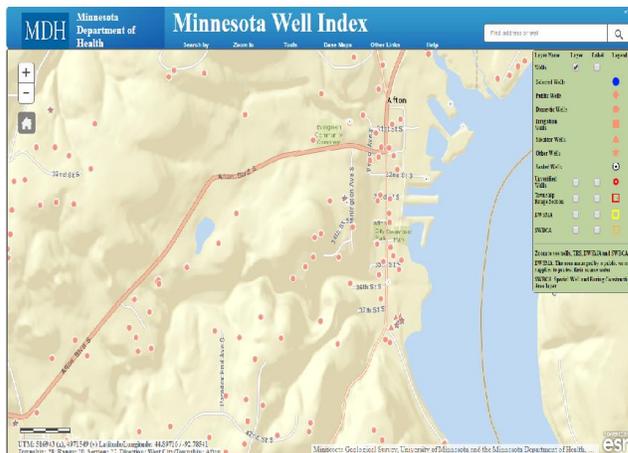
WHAT: Nitrogen is the nutrient applied in the largest quantities for lawn and garden care and crop production. In addition to fertilizer, nitrogen occurs naturally in the soil in organic forms from decaying plant and animal residues. This is desirable, as the majority of the nitrogen used by plants is absorbed in the nitrate form. However, nitrate is highly leachable and readily moves with water through the soil profile. If there is excessive rainfall or over-irrigation, nitrates will be leached below the plant's root zone and eventually reach groundwater, from which well water comes. The upper limit for nitrates in safe drinking water is 10 milligrams/liter.

WHEN: The water sampling dates for this year are scheduled for **Tuesday, October 11 and Tuesday, October 25.**

WHERE: Those unable to drop off their water sample on October 11 or 25 may bring it directly to Washington County Health Department, 4th Floor, Government Center, Stillwater on Tuesday, October 18 between 8:00 and 10:00 a.m.

HOW: Participants are sent instructions on how to take the water sample; the sample is then dropped off at City Hall between 7:00 and 9:30 a.m. on October 11 or 25. Volunteers deliver the water samples to Washington County to be sent to the state for analysis. Nitrate results will be sent out to all participants.

This is a voluntary effort, and resident participation provides Afton with valuable information on the quality of our **invaluable water resource.**



Citizens can see the public data that exists for their well at the Minnesota Department of Health site: <http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/cwi/index.html>.

- Afton Natural Resources and Groundwater Committee

CITY MEETINGS

CITY OFFICE CLOSED
Monday, September 5, 2016
In Observance of Labor Day

September 12, 2016
Planning Commission Meeting
7:00 P.M.

September 20, 2016
City Council Meeting
7:00 P.M.

September 21, 2016
Heritage Preservation Commission
5:00 P.M.

September 21, 2016
Natural Resources & Groundwater
6:30 P.M.

September 28, 2016
Parks Committee
6:00 P.M.

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

CITY COUNCIL

<u>Mayor:</u>	Richard Bend	436-7684
<u>Ward 1:</u>	Bill Palmquist	308-0569
<u>Ward 2:</u>	Joe Richter	436-1819
<u>Ward 3:</u>	Stan Ross	436-1346
<u>Ward 4:</u>	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 Office	439-9381

EMERGENCY 911

Notes from the Mayor

by Richard Bend

I have good and bad news this month. The good news is that the Historic Village project is moving nearer to construction, although it will probably start next spring rather than this fall. The bad news is that an ongoing analysis of current and future road maintenance and capital improvement needs is revealing significant deferred maintenance costs. Although the problems themselves are bad news, it is good news they are being addressed by long range planning, analyzing costs of alternative maintenance schedules, studying alternative financing methods and zeroing in on overall strategies that will minimize the long term costs to residents. The long roads per-capita are a cost worth bearing in exchange for our wonderful low density and it is precisely that low density that has made Afton one of the most popular cities in the metropolitan area.

Important Voting Notices

General Election, November 8**VOTE In Person**

7:00 a.m.—8:00 p.m., Shepherd of the Valley

VOTE Absentee

by mail or in person September 23 through November 7.

REGISTER in advance by October 18 to save time at the polls on General Election Day, November 8.



Important 2016 Afton Elections

OPEN City Council seats in the 2016 election:**Ward 1 — 4-year term** (one open seat)

Bill Palmquist

Simon Wirth

Ward 4 — 4-year term

Randy Nelson (unopposed)

Mayor — 2-year term

Richard Bend (unopposed)

All City Council seats are non-partisan.

15TH ANNUAL BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL LAKE ELMO PARK RESERVE, SEPT. 10

Washington County invites you to Lake Elmo Park Reserve, 2:00—6:00 p.m., Saturday, September 10, South Picnic Pavilion, for the 15th Annual Washington County Bluegrass Festival. The music lineup this year is:

Borderstone, 2 p.m.**Bernie King and the Guilty Pleasures, 3 p.m.****The High 48's, 4 p.m.****Pushing Chain, 5 p.m.**

The pavilion provides limited shaded seating; visitors are encouraged to bring camp chairs, blankets and anything else needed for comfortable seating in full sun. This is a family-friendly event with a variety of food vendors, merchandise, face-painting, and more.

This event is FREE, but all vehicles entering are required to have a valid county park vehicle permit (\$5/day or \$25/annual). Annual park permits are valid for 12 months at all Washington County, Carver County, and Anoka County parks. **Or "Go Green" and enter the park for free (no permit required) by biking or walking.**

The park has other activity areas, including playgrounds, biking trails, a boat launch and camping (requires a reservation). Dogs are not allowed at the festival or in the campgrounds.

Additional information and festival details, are at:
www.co.washington.mn.us/bluegrass.

Local artists read & perform: Savanna Spring Chilkoot Café, Stillwater Sunday, September 25, 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Local writer Laurie Allmann reads poems inspired by her 2016 spring artist residency exploring the natural landscapes of Belwin Conservancy in Afton. Susan Haugh, Belwin's Program Director and composer will perform her original music. *Chilkoot has great food & an intimate venue. Join them!*

"Get Caught" Recycling

City staff just "caught" this year's recycling stars! We continue to find that some streets are better than others at getting the recycling bins out there! Each year we look for higher standards for giving away the \$25 certificates, good for redeeming at local Afton businesses.

This year we looked for those households that have traded in their large trash barrel for a smaller barrel. The unfortunate thing is that a fair number of households that met the requirement for smaller trash bin size had no identifiable ADDRESS for their property!!! *So sad! We had to drive on!*

Residents: Please ensure that your address identifies YOUR PROPERTY and is CLEARLY VISIBLE from both directions by using 4 inch high letters with a contrasting background on both sides of the mailbox!!

Congratulations to those who got caught recycling. Although you can redeem your certificate at any of the businesses listed, make sure to do it **NOW**, before Selma's closes for the year!! (*Do you get the idea we like ice cream!?!?*)

Planning Commission, August 1

- **Held** a Public Hearing for Nelson Estates, Guy Reithmeyer et al, Preliminary Plat. The sketch plan review was held in September, 2014. The property, 1093 Indian Trail Path S, located north of Indian Trail S between Lake Edith Lane and Lake Edith, consists of 30.1 acres of land; 20.7 acres lies above the ordinary high water level of Lake Edith. The subdivision dedicates a 60 foot right-of-way to the city, as there was none previously. Each of the lots is over 5 acres and has more than the minimum buildable acreage and soil testing for septic systems showed acceptable soils. Permits for individual homes must comply with Valley Branch Watershed District requirements. Cash park dedication fees will be collected for each new lot, as the City's Comprehensive Plan shows no use for a park in this area for which land would be dedicated. Recommended approval with conditions.
- **Held** a Public Hearing for an Interim Use Permit for an Accessory Building, Robert Demaster, 15376 Afton Boulevard proposed to remodel the first floor of an existing house to create an accessory building / workshop. It was estimated that the title registration process would take up to a year before the parcels could be combined, including the parcel on which the house is located. Recommended approval with conditions.
- **Discussed** the process for updating the Comprehensive Plan; new language for "commercial" is being considered. Commission members were assigned to review sections of the Comprehensive Plan for the next meeting and bring forward issues that may need tweaking in both the Comp Plan and the ordinances.

City Council Meeting, August 16

- **Approved** Nelson Estates, Guy Reithmeyer et al, Preliminary Plat. The 30.1 acre property at 1093 Indian Trail Path S is located north of Indian Trail S between Lake Edith Lane and Lake Edith. Each of four lots is over 5 acres and has more than the minimum buildable acreage and acceptable septic system soils. A cash park dedication will be collected for each new lot.
- **Accepted** the withdrawal of the Rober Demaster Interim Use Permit application, as the properties could be combined, which then only requires a building permit.
- **Awarded** the bid for the Downtown Improvements Project to Geislinger and Sons, Inc. in the amount of \$12,542,476.71.
- **Approved** the professional services agreement for WSB and Associates for construction administration services for the Downtown Improvements Project.
- **Appointed** a Solid Waste Services Proposal Review Committee; members to be City Staff and Council Member Stan Ross volunteered to be on the committee.
- **Directed** a draft ordinance be prepared for requiring a septic inspection for any building permit valuation over \$75,000 or 40% of the assessed property value.
- **Approved** scanning all of the property-related legacy documents into Laserfiche at one time for an amount not to exceed \$16,175.90.
- **Approved** two additional Afton properties for Local Historic Designation.
- **Approved** and directed moving forward with the process to close the city cartway off of Afton Boulevard to the property at 14925.
- **Directed** staff to obtain an analysis for erosion control and repair to the cartway.
- **Tabled** the discussion of the cluster mailboxes until the September meeting.
- **Directed** a draft ordinance amendment be prepared setting parameters for disturbing man-made slopes over 18% immediately adjacent to publicly improved roads and/or if the 18% slope extends perpendicular to a road for 30 feet or less.
- **Action on items added to the night's agenda:** approved a bike rack and garbage can for the Pedal & Paddle program; placed a moratorium on charging the Heritage Preservation Commission's design review fee until the Fee Schedule is revised in January 2017; approved refunding the latest design review fee paid; approved paying the registration for those CC, PC and NRCG members wishing to attend the 2016 St. Croix Workshop-on-the-Water.

Downtown Improvements Project Update

- The bid for the Downtown Improvements Project was awarded at the August 16 City Council meeting.
- An information meeting for the public was held on Thursday, August 25 to provide information and answer questions regarding the possible construction and temporary closure of St. Croix Trail south of Town Square Park this fall. This construction schedule was subject to the completion of requirements related to federal funding for the project.
- It now appears that the federal funding requirements will not be complete in time to allow construction in 2016, and that construction will be delayed until the spring of 2017.



Watch for it in
Spring 2017!

Cops and Cones

On August 25, our very own Selma's Ice Cream Parlour sponsored the first "Cops & Cones" event which was very well received and enjoyed by many! "Cops" displayed several emergency vehicles, gave a K9 demonstration and a Deputy meet-and-greet. Kids enjoyed face-painting, a bounce house and much more — **even free ice cream...**

Thank you Selma's!

We're looking forward to the 2nd Annual "Cops & Cones"!

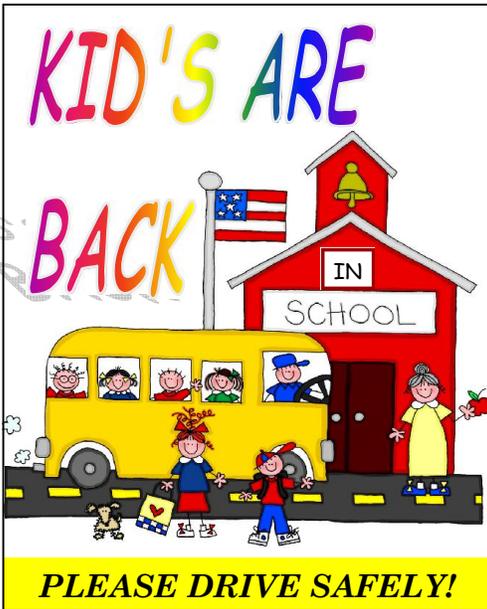




CITY OF AFTON
3033 ST CROIX TRAIL SO
P.O. BOX 219
AFTON, MN 55001



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



**PATRON
AFTON, MN 55001**

**Valley Branch Library
September Events**

**CLOSED MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 5,
FOR LABOR DAY**

STEM Saturday

Saturday, Sept. 17, 11 a.m. to noon
Explore STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) through hands-on activities and creative projects!

STEAM Storytime

Monday, Sept. 26, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.
Stories, songs, rhymes and special activities involving fun with Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math.

Preschool Storytime

Mondays, Sept. 12 & 19, 10:30 to 11 a.m.
Stories, songs, rhymes develop early literacy skills.



Dog Gone Reading

Tuesday, Sept. 27, from 4 to 6 p.m.
Children K-7 read aloud to Legacy, a certified therapy dog and its owner. Sign up for 15 minute reading sessions at the library or call 436-5882.



Valley Library Book Club

Thursday, Sept. 22, from 5 to 5:55 p.m.
This month's book is: "The Late Homecomer" by Kao Kalia Yang. Just read the book, come, and discuss. Open to all.



View this newsletter
IN COLOR
on the city website.



Please recycle this
newsletter after use.

**Saturday, Sept 17 is
Community Garden Day**

Visit Rinta Gardens

(south of Hudson Road between Indian Trail & Shepherd of the Valley)
1:00—3:00 p.m.

Saturday, September 17.

Come by if you have been curious as to how the Lower St. Croix Valley Community Garden works, or you are interested in a garden plot in 2017.



Stop by if you have comments, or just want to chat.

The 411 on 911

During our recent tour of Afton to "catch" households recycling, many property addresses were found to be **unreadable** or **missing**. Emergency vehicles may be trying to find your home *in the dark, in a blizzard, or from the opposite direction!!!* To ensure that your address can be seen: have numbers 4" high or more, against a contrasting background, and viewable from both approaches to the property.

Please check & replace missing, faded & unreadable addresses!

Belwin Conservancy Events - Saturday, September 17

All activities are free for members. If you are not a member, consider becoming one & join us on Saturday, September 17th. Visit Belwin.org.



Belwin Trails — Open 3rd Saturday 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

All members are invited to come out and walk the trails at Belwin—including those at the Education Center, 1553 Stagecoach Trail South, Afton, MN.

Bison Buggy Rides 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Bison Observation Area: Division St. S. All members may take a short ride on the Bison Buggy. Rides begin on the half hour (last ride at 2:30 p.m.) Limited to four spaces per family. Seasons ends Sept.