



SEPTEMBER 2018

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

You Are Invited, to “Re-Discover Afton”!

Join us on September 27th from 5:00 til 7:00 to celebrate the completion of Afton’s largest renovation project ever! After six years of planning and design and two years of construction the City of Afton has completed its commitment to help save the St. Croix River by reducing pollutant loading to the St. Croix River and completing significant infrastructure improvements. Other project benefits include flood protection improvements, elimination of failing septic systems, reconstruction of failed roadways, and an improved pedestrian access and trail system. Success was achieved by a strong partnership with Washington County, Local, State and Federal agencies, numerous tribal communities and WSB and Associates. The location will be directly in front of the new levee opening on 33rd street. Social hour with hors d’oeuvres and wine at 5:00PM, presentations at 6:00PM and a ribbon cutting ceremony at 6:30PM rain or shine.

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer to help at the event email me at ward3@ci.afton.mn.us or call 651-436-1346.

Stan Ross, Ward 3 Council Member



**KID'S ARE
BACK IN SCHOOL**

PLEASE DRIVE SAFELY!

Downtown Village Improvement Project Update

The construction of the flood control structure opening in the levee at the end of 33rd Street is now substantially complete. The paving of the trail along the levee in this area is planned to be completed in late August.

The restoration of the boulevard areas along St. Croix Trail with sod is planned to begin in late August. Once the sod is laid, the contractor will maintain the sod for a 30 day period, after which the responsibility for maintaining the sod, including watering, will shift to each property owner adjacent to the boulevard areas. It is very important that the adjacent property owners keep the sod well-watered through the fall to give it the best opportunity to be healthy in the spring. Property owners along St. Croix Trail will receive a letter explaining their responsibility for maintenance of the sod in mid-September.

CITY MEETINGS

City Office CLOSED September 3

September 4, 2018

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

September 10, 2018

Planning Commission Meeting
7:00 P.M.

September 18, 2018

City Council Meeting
7:00 P.M.

September 19, 2018

Heritage Preservation Commission
5:00 P.M.

September 26, 2018

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 436-2238

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

Mally's Sunshine Kennel 715-246-2467

LSCV Fire Dept 436-7033

Sheriff's Dept 439-9381

EMERGENCY 911

A Letter from the Mayor ~

Celebration scheduled; second celebration delayed

On September 27th at 5 o'clock the city will celebrate the completion of the Old Village improvement projects. The event will include a social hour from 5 to 6, presentations and comments by funding and other project partners until 6:30, followed by opportunities to view the infrastructure improvements. The city and current council are to be commended for completing this worthwhile project inherited from the previous administration.

The second celebration I mention in the heading, one I personally care about and have worked hard to accomplish, is celebration of complete payoff of all Afton's bonding debt. The council learned at its work session last night that due to a funding shortfall Afton's interim bond will not be able to be paid off prior to its coming due in 2020. This means that it will need to be refinanced and instead of a payoff celebration occurring in approximately nine years, it will be delayed.

While I and many of the ninety percent of Afton residents who live outside the Old Village care most about our immediate neighborhoods, we can nonetheless take great pride in having insured that all parts of Afton meet the highest aesthetic, environmental and living standards. By caring for the maintenance and long-term protection of each other's neighborhoods, we insure Afton's long-term, small town, rural by design character.

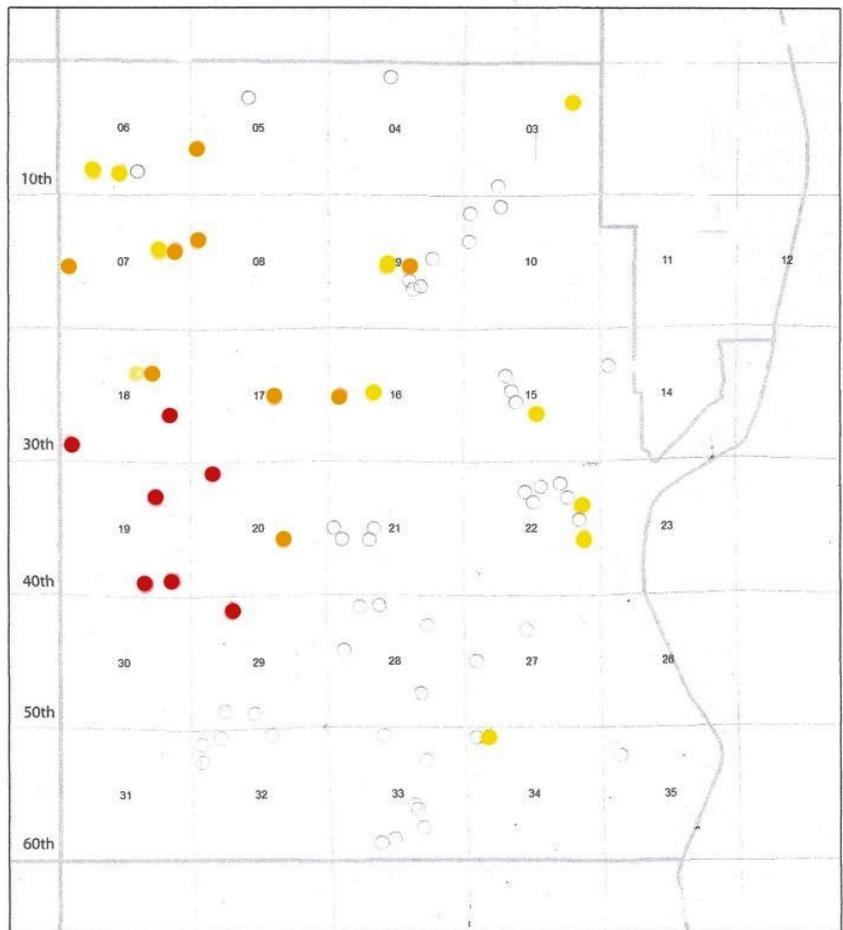
Let's all enjoy our now uniformly beautiful Afton this fall. It is my favorite season, the season made exhilarating by falling temperatures, made boisterous by the calls of migrating waterfowl and made vivid by fall leaves and the reappearance of orange school buses on city roads.

~Richard

Nitrate Water Testing Results

Thank you to the 74 residents who came to City Hall on June 20th with water samples to be analyzed for nitrates. The map shows ranges in concentration and the section numbers for Afton.

Natural Resources & Groundwater Committee



Nitrate results, June 20, 2018. Nitrate concentrations were reported in milligrams per liter as nitrogen. Map shows the following ranges in concentration:

- <2
- 2.1 to 5
- 5.1 to 10
- >10

August Meeting Highlights

August 6, 2018 Planning Commission Meeting

The Commission:

- Held a public hearing for River Valley Riders amended CUP application regarding an indoor riding arena at 2007 Neal Ave.
- Held a public hearing for Steve and Jennifer Knuth / Nathan Landucci Variance Application at the property on Valley Creek Trail.
- Held a public hearing on an ordinance amendment to allow swimming pool auto covers as an alternative to a fence enclosure.

August 21, 2018 City Council Meeting

The Council:

- Approved River Valley Riders amended CUP application for an indoor riding arena at 2007 Neal Ave.
- Approved Steve and Jenifer Knuth / Nathan Landucci Variance Application at the property on Valley Creek Trail.
- Authorized staff to work with the DNR, Corps of Engineers and Watershed District regarding plantings and maintenance of vegetation on the levee.
- Authorized staff to develop ordinance language regarding banning plastic straws and plastic utensils at restaurants and bars.
- Approved refunds of interest payments to those who prepaid their assessments prior to July 1, 2018.
- Approved drainage solution for Town Square Park ballfield area.

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

Belwin Conservancy Upcoming Events

Saturday, September 15

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

Participate in programs, meet Belwin staff, explore the trails, and connect with nature. One-Hour Guided Experiences at 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. departing from the Education Center. **September topic:** Mushroom Meander. Nancy Etwiler (an amateur mycologist who has been tracking fungi at Belwin this season) will conduct a walking tour of one of Belwin's trails to familiarize participants with the introductory concepts of mushroom identification and variety, and the interdependence of fungi with Belwin flora. Join the walk to search for and learn about gilled mushrooms, shelf fungi, slime molds and polypores, and learn about the fascinating and rich world of fungi around us.

Free and open to everyone; Guided Experiences \$10 for non-members.

Tuesday, September 18

Sunset Prairie Hike 6:30 p.m. —8:30 p.m.

Come and hunt for signs of the season at the Belwin Creative Center located at [795 Indian Trail S.](#) in Afton. This inspiring site is only open for special programming at this time. Join us as we make our way through one of the largest Oak Savanna restorations in the state. Hiking is moderately challenging. RSVP requested.

For Information & To RSVP for events:

Belwin Conservancy

1553 Stagecoach Trail S., Afton.

651-436-5189

www.belwin.org

Photo contest open for Washington County Park's Annual Vehicle Permit

The general public who have been snapping photos in Washington County Parks now have the opportunity to submit those photos with the possibility of it being used on the county's annual 2019/2020 parks pass.

The photo contest from last year highlighted Big Marine Park Reserve and its 10-year anniversary. A photo submitted by Denny Lehman won the contest.

This year, Washington County will be highlighting Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park since it reopened in June, Point Douglas Park, and Point Douglas Regional Trail, which was completed in August. If you have photos that you would like to submit from Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park, Point Douglas Park, or Point Douglas Regional Trail, submit them to Sara Armstrong, Parks Coordinator at

sara.armstrong@co.washington.mn.us. Share them as well on social media using #washco2019parkpass. Photos will be accepted for consideration until Oct. 15, 2018.

Enjoy guided fitness hike Sept. 6 at Lake Elmo park

Explore the Washington County Parks trail system with guided fitness hikes, with the next hike at 9 to 10 a.m. Thursday, Sept. 6, at Lake Elmo Park Reserve.

The one-hour hikes involve a warm-up and fitness challenges along the way. Trails are a mix of turf, gravel, grass, snow, and pavement depending on trail conditions, time of year, and location. Plan to arrive 10 minutes early. If light rain, hike will go on as scheduled. The program is for those ages 13 and older. All minors must be accompanied by an adult.

All guided fitness hikes are at the Lake Elmo Park Reserve Thursdays from 9 to 10 a.m. and will meet at the Nordic Center. The continuing 2018 schedule is:

Sept. 20
Oct. 4
Nov. 1
Dec. 6

These programs are free with a parks vehicle permit (\$7/day or \$30/annual) with the exception of Free Tuesdays. Follow Washington County Parks on social media at @WashCountyParks.



**Afton Art in the Park
September 22 & 23, 2018**



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 calendar of events
for September 2018**

Library Closed Monday, September 3

Family Storytime

Mondays: September 10 & 17; 10:30—11:00 AM

STEM Saturdays— Radical Robots

Saturday, September 15; 11:00 AM—12:00 PM
Ages 5– 14

STEAM Storytime

Monday, September 24; 10:30-11:30AM

Valley Book Club

Thursday, September 27, 5:00—6:00 PM

**Stepping Stone Theater Workshop:
Stage Make-up and Special Effects**

Saturday, September 29; 2:00—3:00 PM
Grades 3-5

**Full Calendar of Events:
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.*

County Household Hazardous Waste Collection

Washington County conducts household hazardous waste collections in county communities, with the next one 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 8, at the Forest Lake Transit Center, 19955 Forest Road N.; enter at Headwaters Parkway.

Additional fall events are:

- at the Forest Lake Transit Center, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 15, 19955 Forest Road N.; enter at Headwaters Parkway;
- at the Hugo Public Works Garage, 8 a.m. to noon Saturday, Oct. 6, 6900 137th St. N., Hugo.

Confidential document shredding will be available at all events.

In addition to the satellite collection events, confidential paper shredding continues at the Washington County Environmental Center, Wednesdays 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.:

- Wednesday, Sept. 19; and Wednesday, Nov. 7.

In addition to remote-site collections, the Washington County Environmental Center, 4039 Cottage Grove Drive in Woodbury, provides residents with a free and convenient disposal option for household hazardous waste, electronics, and recyclables all year round.

It is open Tuesday 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., Thursday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Friday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Saturday 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The center accepts household hazardous waste, electronics, and recyclables. The center also has a Free Product Room.

General Election Absentee Voting begins

September 21

Beginning September 21 voters can vote by absentee in the General Election by mail by or in person at any of the locations below:

- Cottage Grove Service Center, 13000 Ravine Parkway S., Cottage Grove
- Headwaters Service Center, 19955 Forest Road N, Forest Lake
- Washington County Government Center, 14949 62nd St N., Stillwater
- Woodbury Service Center, 2150 Radio Drive, Woodbury
- Oakdale City Hall, Hadley Room, 1584 Hadley Ave N

Hours:

Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Saturday, November 3, 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Monday, November 5, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Afton's Polling Place for Elections on Election Day is:

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

East Entrance - Gymnasium

14107 Hudson Road S

Afton, MN 55001

The General Election is on November 6, 2018

Voting Hours: 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

