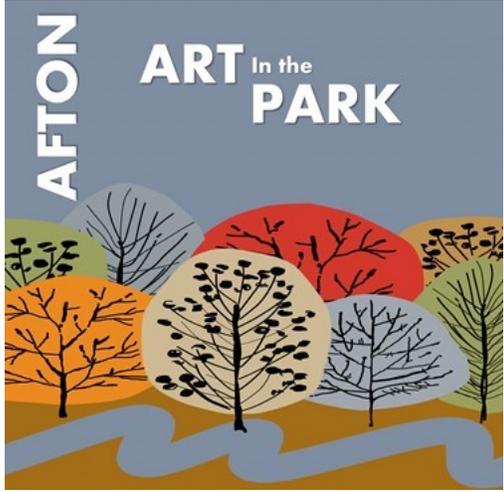




September 2019

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



AFTON

ART In the **PARK**

Afton Art in the Park
September 28 & 29, 2019

Saturday 10am – 5pm
Sunday 11am - 4pm
100+ Vendors, Live Music,
Great Food, Wine & Beer
Garden, Kids Art Pavilion,
Crafts & Much more!

<http://exploreafton.com/>



**KID'S ARE
BACK IN SCHOOL**

PLEASE DRIVE SAFELY!

Part-Time Maintenance Worker Wanted

City of Afton, Part-time Maintenance Position
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 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 . Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

CITY MEETINGS

City Offices CLOSED
September 2

September 3, 2019

Natural Resources & Groundwater
5:30 P.M.

September 9, 2019

Planning Commission Meeting
7:00 P.M.

September 17, 2019

City Council Meeting
7:00 P.M.

September 18, 2019

Heritage Preservation Commission
5:00 P.M.

September 25, 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

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

Notes from the Mayor

The city hosted a meeting on August 28 to discuss Novel Energy Solutions' solar project on Hudson Road to learn how residents can participate in using the renewable energy it will provide. It is a great opportunity on many levels. If you were unable to attend, contact NES or city hall for more information.

The city's well testing program was very successful again this year. We had record participation and the feedback has been very positive. Thank you to the Natural Resources and Groundwater Committee members who worked so hard to make it a success. The committee is already discussing next year's plan and wants to expand the number of participants and testing options. Look for more information in a newsletter in early 2020.

I read today that the monarchs begin their migration in early September. I noticed a real uptick in the numbers I saw this summer, along with many other species. I think the recognition of the need for more pollinator habitat and the work so many in the community have done to fill that need is really paying off. You have probably heard about the pilot program the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWRS) is launching called "Lawns to Legumes." The Legislative Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources provided \$900,000 in funding for workshops and grants to homeowners to convert a portion of their lawn to perennial native plantings. BWRS will have \$700,000 available for direct grants. One of the focuses is the habitat of the new state bee: the Rusty Patch Bumblebee. In Afton, we are in that range, so homeowners will be eligible for up to \$500. Applications will be taken this winter. For more information go to the BWRS webpage or look for an update in a future newsletter. When we have more details we will share them.

There are only two more dates to take brush up to Aggregate Industries this year: September 14th and October 12th, between 8:00 am and 10:50 am. The brush drop off site is located across from the Bungalow Inn.

Hope you have a good month of early fall.

-Bill



Washington County Parks welcome all to 18th Annual Washington County Parks Bluegrass Festival Saturday, Sept. 7

Washington County Parks invites the community to the 18th Annual Bluegrass Festival 2 to 6 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 7, at the Lake Elmo Park Reserve - South Picnic Pavilion. The annual 2019 Washington County Bluegrass Festival fuses community, the great outdoors, and homegrown bluegrass music. It's the county parks' way of celebrating a successful summer season and giving thanks to everyone for supporting Washington County Parks.

There will be free face painting by Touch of Magic, and several food vendors will be on site.

The 2019 music lineup is:

- 2 p.m. - Pickin' Up Steam
- 3 p.m. - Bernie King & the Guilty Pleasures
- 4 p.m. - Armchair Boogie
- 5 p.m. - Monroe Crossing

The Bluegrass Festival is free for annual park permit holders and available to all visitors for the price of a daily or annual permit, \$7 daily or \$30 annually. The festival is supported by the Minnesota Bluegrass and Old-Time Music Association (MBOTMA).

See the Washington County website at www.co.washington.mn.us and search "Bluegrass Festival" for additional information. Follow Washington County Parks on social media at @WashCountyParks.

August Meeting Highlights

August 5, 2019 Planning Commission Meeting

The Commission:

- Held a public hearing for the Kathy and David Boisjoli application for an Ordinance Amendment regarding equine-assisted mental health therapy at a private riding stable and a Conditional Use Permit for equine-assisted mental health therapy at a private riding stable at 15489 45th Street.
- Reviewed elements of the PLCD Ordinance language.

August 20, 2019 City Council Meeting

The Council:

- Approved an application for an Ordinance Amendment from Kathy and David Boisjoli for equine-assisted mental health therapy at a private riding stable.
- Approved a Conditional Use Permit for Kathy and David Boisjoli for equine-assisted mental health therapy at a private riding stable at 15489 45th Street.
- Received an update from the City Engineer on the Afton Creek Preserve Construction.
- Accepted the 2018 Audit Report.
- Approved purchase of signs for posting at Steamboat Park.
- Approved an expense reimbursement policy for city council members.
- Approved additional patrols for speed enforcement.

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

Belwin Conservancy Upcoming Events

Saturday, September 14th, 2019

Tropical Wings Fall Bird Migration Celebration and Annual Meeting

7:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Free and open to everyone. Tropical Wings will be hosting its annual meeting and Fall Bird Migration Celebration at the Belwin Creative Center, with Belwin Naturalist Lynette Anderson as the featured speaker. Everyone is welcome to attend this event, which includes a bird hike, refreshments and presentations.

Sunday, September 15th, 2019

Sunday Seed Collection

1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Free and open to everyone! Help us collect a variety of seeds from Belwin's prairies and support our continued restoration efforts. Come for an hour or stay for the whole time. All ages welcome.

Tuesday, September 17th, 2019

Twilight Hike at Belwin Creative Center

6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Free and open to everyone! Come and experience the magic of Belwin's Oak Savanna restoration, one of the largest in the state.

Saturday, September 21st, 2019

Education Center Third Saturdays Resume

Open to everyone! Explore the Belwin Education Center and its miles of rolling, wooded trails.

Guided Experiences at 11:00 a.m. and at 1:00 p.m. September topic: Reptiles at Belwin. Free to independently explore the Education Center and trails. Guided Experiences: Free for members, \$10/family for non-members.

Bison Buggy Rides for Members

12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Members Only. Non-members may join at this event.

New Program! Women Walking

6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Open to everyone! \$10 per person, with a maximum of 20 participants.

RSVPs If you would like to attend this event, you **must pre-register by September 20, 2019**

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

Guided Morning Bird Hikes continue with Sept. 14 hike

A rotating schedule of bird hikes throughout Washington County Parks continue, with a hike 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 14, at Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park. Hikers should park in the playground parking lot.

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.

Bird hikes through 2019 will include:

Oct. 12, Pine Point Regional Park;

Nov. 9, Big Marine Park Reserve, and

Dec. 14, Lake Elmo Park Reserve.

For questions, call 651-430-8370 or email at parks@co.washington.mn.us.





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



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Valley Library Featured Events for September 2019

Closed on Monday, Sept. 2 for Labor Day

Meditation for Inner Peace During Turbulent Times

Thursday, Sept. 12 from 6 to 7 p.m.

There's an App for That

Saturday, Sept. 14 from 12 to 2 p.m.

Dance Together

Friday, Sept. 27 from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.

STEM Saturdays: A Bee's Code

Saturday, Sept. 28 from 1 to 1:45 p.m.

**To Register and for 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

INCOLOR
on the city website.



*Please recycle this
newsletter after use.*

Environmental Center Open House

Save the date!

Tuesday, Sept. 17

4:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Washington County Public Health & Environment invites you to an open house to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Environmental Center.

- Behind-the-scenes tour
- Make your own non-toxic household cleaner
- Refreshments and light snacks
- Information on recycling, organics, and more!

Washington County Environmental Center
4039 Cottage Grove Drive
Woodbury, MN 55129
www.co.washington.mn.us/envirocenter
651-275-7475.

Scrap Metal Recycling 101

The Washington County Environmental Center accepts scrap metal of all kinds, including aluminum, brass, copper, iron, and steel. Because of limited space, only small items are accepted. Larger items must be broken down with non-metal parts removed. Follow these instructions when dropping-off items for recycling.

- **First things first: Reuse it!** Find someone who can use it or locate your local donation center. If it is in need of repair, bring it to the next Washington County Library Fix-it Clinic.
- **Gas Grills:** Remove all non-metal parts, including plastic wheels and any remaining cold charcoal. If the grill includes metal legs, remove them and place inside grill.
- **Bikes:** Remove all non-metal parts, including tires and tubes. Dismantle wheels, which are often a different metal than the frame and will be recycled separately.
- **Lawn mowers and other motorized equipment:** Remove all non-metal parts, including plastic wheels, handles, and other plastic materials. (For example, hoses from power washers.) Collapse handle and remove bag. Drain gasoline and oil and bring in a separate container.
- **Exercise equipment:** Remove all non-metal parts, including treadmill tracks and plastic housing. Dismantle electronic screens and displays, which can be recycled separately as electronics. Dismantle electric motors, if possible, which can be recycled as copper.
- **Fluorescent Light Fixtures:** Many fluorescent light fixtures are steel and can be recycled. Remove tubes and ballasts and bring in along with the light fixture for recycling.

Questions? Visit www.co.washington.mn.us/envirocenter or call 651-275-7475.

City of Afton
Find us on Facebook!

