



November 2023

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

City of Afton Dashboard
A Summary of Current Happenings

- ◆ The council adopted an ordinance restricting the use of shipping containers for exterior storage in all areas of the city. The ordinance allows shipping containers to be used for temporary storage for up to 180 days, but they cannot be used for permanent storage.
- ◆ The application for a variance for a garage, and a minor subdivision and variance for a lot line rearrangement at 16530 Swede Hill Drive was heard by the council. The minor subdivision and variance for a lot line rearrangement was approved with the condition that the subdivision would not be recorded until the applicants had an opportunity to explore other options for ownership and use of the property. The variance for the garage was tabled to the November 21 Council meeting to enable the applicant to address questions and comments from the Council.
- ◆ The “Holiday In The Village” event and tree lighting will be held on December 1st and 2nd. Go to <https://exploreafton.com/afton-village-holiday/> for more information.

SAR



Elections November 7, 2023

The Stillwater School District (ISD 834) and the South Washington County School District (ISD 833) will hold Elections this fall.

- **Early in-person voting** begins Friday, Sept. 22 and ends Monday, Nov. 6 at the Cottage Grove Service Center, Stillwater Government Center and Woodbury Service Center—Central Park. Hours are:
Monday - Friday, Sept. 22-Nov. 3: 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Saturday, Nov 4: 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Monday, Nov. 6: 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
- **The polling location for Afton residents in District 834 (Stillwater) on Election Day** is Shepherd of the Valley, 14107 Hudson Rd S. from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 7.
- **The polling location for Afton residents in District 833 (South Washington) on Election Day** is Cottage Grove Middle School 9775 Indian Blvd S. Cottage Grove from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov 7.
- View your **sample ballot** at mnvotes.org.
- To vote **early by mail**, visit mnvotes.org or call 651-430-6790 and request an absentee application be sent to you.

CITY OFFICE CLOSED

Thursday, November 9
Thursday, November 23
Friday, November 24

CITY MEETINGS

November 6, 2023
Planning Commission Meeting
7:00 PM

November 8, 2023
Parks Committee Meeting
5:30 PM

November 21, 2023
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

<u>Mayor:</u> Bill Palmquist	651-308-0569
<u>Ward 1:</u> Annie Perkins	651-592-3007
<u>Ward 2:</u> Lucia Wroblewski	651-436-3982
<u>Ward 3:</u> Stan Ross	612-720-6478
<u>Ward 4:</u> Randy Nelson	651-436-2479

CITY HALL

651-436-5090

CITY WEBSITE

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

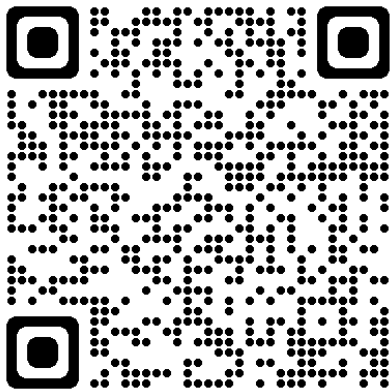
It feels a bit early to talk about the holidays but since our December newsletter will not arrive in time, I want to make sure everyone knows about the tree lighting ceremony and the weekend holiday celebration in the Old Village. The event begins December 1 at 6pm when the tree in Town Square Park will be lit. Carolers will be strolling through town and all the shops will be open. There will also be wagon rides that night, and throughout the weekend. It is always one of my favorite events. It is a nice evening and weekend to slow down, walk from shop to shop, and enjoy a more relaxed holiday tradition with friends and neighbors before the inevitable hectic time that can follow. I hope to see you there and thank the AABA and all the volunteers who work so hard to make this event happen each year.

At its October meeting, the council amended the ordinance regarding the protection and preservation of the trees and other natural vegetation in our shoreland and riverway district areas. The new ordinance strengthens the existing rules and addresses restoration in cases where illegal cutting has taken place. This change is meant to ensure that any negative impacts to the land or waters nearby will be corrected now and into the future. If you are unsure if you live in an area covered by the state riverway district rules, or are in a shoreland area, contact the city staff before doing any cutting. Staff can quickly let you know if you are, and if so, can advise you of the specific rules you need to follow. Our goal is to continue to protect the environment as prior residents and councils have done and preserve the beautiful landscape and waterways we all enjoy and that make Afton the place it is today.

Don't forget to vote on November 7. Important items are on the ballot including the issuance of school building bonds to address the growth in the district and improve building security and a special election to fill one seat on the school board. Our polling place remains Shepherd of the Valley Church on Hudson Road.

-Bill

* **Special thank you to Tom & Holly Melroe** *
* **for volunteering their gardening skills to** *
* **keep Afton's parks and medians looking** *
* **fantastic again this summer.** *



The WCD Tree Sale is just around the corner!

Purchase high quality bare root seedlings at a low-cost for windbreaks, reforestation, erosion control, and food and cover for wildlife.

Orders are taken on a first come, first served basis. To ensure you get the species and quantity you want, use the QR code to sign up for program updates and more information or visit the WCD website [Trees — Washington Conservation District \(mnwcd.org\)](http://www.mnwcd.org)



When Halloween is over, don't trash your pumpkins!

Find a drop-off site in Washington County!



Don't throw your rotting Halloween pumpkins, compost them! Pumpkins can be dropped off at a designated drop-off site for composting. Pumpkins must be free of paint, glitter, or any other decorations.

To find a drop off site visit: <https://www.co.washington.mn.us/3575/Pumpkin-Recycling>

Meeting Highlights

October 2, 2023 Planning Commission Meeting

The Commission:

- Held a public hearing for an application for a Conditional Use Permit for a roadside stand at 4433 Pateley Bridge Ave S.
- Held a public hearing for an application to replace an existing security fence at the Xcel property at 12511 Hudson Road S.
- Held a public hearing for an application for a garage, variance and lot line rearrangement at 16530 Swede Hill Dr S.
- Held a public hearing for an Ordinance Amendment regarding the preservation and replacement of shoreland vegetation.
- Held a public hearing for an Ordinance Amendment regarding exterior storage.

October 17, 2023 City Council Meeting

The Council:

- Approved a Conditional Use Permit for a roadside stand at 4433 Pateley Bridge Ave S
- Approved a Conditional Use Permit to replace an existing security fence at the Xcel property at 12511 Hudson Road S.
- Approved a lot line rearrangement at 16530 Swede Hill Dr S.; Tabled the garage variance request.
- Approved an Ordinance Amendment regarding the preservation and replacement of shoreland vegetation.
- Approved an Ordinance Amendment regarding exterior storage.
- Approved a request for a pension benefit increase for the Lower St. Croix Valley Fire Relief Association.

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

Belwin Conservancy Upcoming Events

Winter Twilight Hike

Saturday, December 9th, 2023

4:30 pm - 6:30 pm

Belwin Conservancy Hilltop Classroom 1553 Stagecoach Trail, Afton MN 55001

Presented in partnership with Saint Paul Public Schools Community Education

Cost: \$25 per person

Women Walking

Saturday, December 16th, 2023

6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Belwin Conservancy Hilltop Classroom 1553 Stagecoach Trail, Afton MN 55001

Cost: \$20 per person

Winter Solstice Bonfire

Wednesday, December 20th, 2023

6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Lucy Winton Bell Athletic Fields
15601 Hudson Rd. N, Lakeland, MN

Cost: \$10 per car (cash or check)

Join us for our annual Winter Solstice Bonfire!

Enjoy a roaring bonfire, guided night hikes, live music, and a prairie labyrinth. Cookies and hot cider will be available inside a warming tent.

Guided night hikes will be offered throughout the evening.

At 6:15 pm, Jenny Hanlon, of Stillwater Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE), will be leading a short hike and songs specifically geared towards families with children 5 and under.

For details and registration contact:

Belwin Conservancy

1553 Stagecoach Trail South

Afton MN 55001

651-436-5189

www.belwin.org

Private Well Testing for PFAS

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) continues to sample private residential wells, municipal wells, and non-community public wells (e.g., small businesses, churches, schools) in the east metro area for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). The testing is done at no cost to the property owner.

Numerous private wells located throughout Afton have been tested for PFAS. The area where some wells have received a health advisory is in the north central and northeast portion of the City. Wells tested in other areas of the City have shown no or low levels of PFAS.

If you would like your well to be tested, the following link will take you to the well testing request form.

<https://webapp.pca.state.mn.us/gw-sampling-req/>

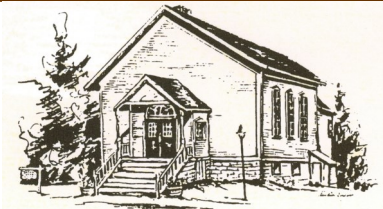


Calling all Bakers.

Please support the Afton Museum's annual bake sale for the Holiday in the Village event.

Please drop off your festively wrapped baked goods at the museum on Thursday, November 30th.

Questions: email "info@aftonhistoricalmuseum.com" or call 651-436-3500



The **Afton Historical Museum**, located in the historic Old Village of Afton is seeking volunteers to help with history related projects and assist with staffing the museum during open hours. Hours are per your availability and are very flexible. Volunteers will be interacting with the public and training will be provided. If you would like to learn about the history of Afton and the St. Croix River Valley and meet new friends, send an email to info@aftonhistoricalmuseum.com or call 651-436-3500.



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

Closed November 10, 11, 23, & 24 for Veterans Day & Thanksgiving

For Adults:

Thursday, November 9th, 2:00-4:00 PM
Introduction to internet genealogy. Registration required.

Thursday, November 30, 5:00-6:00 PM
The Valley Library Book Club

For Kids:

Every Monday 10:30-11:00 AM Family Story time

Saturday, November 4, 11:30 AM
Bruce the Bug Guy

Thursday, November 16, Pick up during open hours
Take & Make: Minnesota animals & their habitats

Saturday, November 13, 10:30-11:00AM
Super Storytime

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



Please recycle this newsletter after use.

**Lower St. Croix Valley Fire Department
Fire Extinguisher Recharging Event**

What:: Commercial and Residential annual fire extinguisher recharging
Where: Lower St Croix Valley Fire Department
1560 St. Croix Tr. S.
Lakeland, Minnesota 55043
(651) 436-7033
When: Thursday, November 16, 2022 from 9:00 am to Noon
By: Bill Becker Fire & Safety
Cost:: Varies and is paid directly to Vendor

Veterans Recognition Dinner



**Friday, November 10, 2023
5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
Sit Down Dinner***

**At The Church of St. Francis of Assisi
Lake Saint Croix Beach**
FREE Dinner for Lower St. Croix Valley Veterans, Service Members and their Families

Thank you for your service

*A limited number of To-Go meals will be available



Hosted by:

