



December 2020

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

City of Afton Dashboard: A summary of current happenings

- ◆ Town Square Park – due to Covid-19, restrooms in Town Square Park will be closed starting December 1st and remain closed throughout the winter. The warming house will not be installed this winter.
- ◆ Parks – work continues with the Afton/Belwin/County joint effort to create a new hiking area just north of the Old Village on the property on the west side of Co. Rd. 18 where it crosses Valley Creek. This area will be open in 2022 to the public for walking and hiking.
- ◆ Afton Levee – was certified by the Army Corps in May, 2020 and passed on to FEMA for designating the area now protected by the levee as no longer in the floodplain. FEMA is nearing the end of this process, which will mean that properties in the Old Village will no longer need to purchase flood insurance.
- ◆ Public Works – working on a bridge / large culvert maintenance plan. This plan will project maintenance and / or replacement timing and costs of our six bridges and many large culverts. Bridges are defined as having a span of 10 feet or greater and large culverts are any with a diameter larger than 36 inches.
- ◆ Small Project Permit – a new ordinance amendment has been approved to require anyone (except farmers) planning a project that involves hauling of material and/or the use of heavy equipment to obtain a small project permit. Project examples include replacing a septic system or paving a driveway. This permit process will be used to alert Public Works of the project so that they can work with the contractor to prevent damage to our roads.

- SAR



The City Office is Closed

Thursday, December 24

Friday, December 25

Friday, January 1

In observance of the Holidays

CITY MEETINGS

The regular meetings of the Planning Commission and City Council are being held remotely. Other Volunteer Commissions and Committees are canceled for November unless otherwise noted below. Remote meetings of those committees may be held if timely action is needed and if properly noticed.

December 7, 2020

Planning Commission Meeting
7:00 P.M.

(To be held remotely)

December 15, 2020

City Council Meeting
7:00 P.M.

(To be held remotely)

Information on how to join the meetings will be posted on the City website along with the agenda and meeting packet.

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 612-720-6478

Ward 4: 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

Notes from the Mayor

As I write this, we are preparing for a Thanksgiving unlike any we have ever had. And we are looking forward to a holiday season and New Year that will not look normal to many of us. With COVID-19 spiking again, and the strain on our medical facilities happening all over the state, all of us are being asked to adapt our traditions, and look for new ways to connect and share the season. By doing this, we will be helping our first responders and medical professionals who continue to do so much for all of us. Our actions will make sure there is help for those who need it, and it will save lives. But I know it will be a challenge. For those who have suffered during the long months of this pandemic, with illness, financial struggles, or the loss of a loved one, know that all of us are keeping you in our hearts. I hope all of us can find the renewal this season can offer, and look forward to the promise of the New Year.

I recently read that some people are considering scaling back their normal decorations due to the fact they will not be having the usual gatherings and celebrations with family and friends. As we move into December and the New Year, I would encourage all of us to do the opposite. Let's make sure those lights get put up and turned on, that we bring as much beauty as we can to our neighborhoods and our city. Maybe this year it is not for our loved ones coming to our homes, but rather for neighbors and our broader community. Let's show we are resilient, we will endure these latest challenges, and continue to celebrate all that we have to be grateful for.

With the limitations in place, much of what we do will shift. But if you are able, please consider doing more shopping with our local small businesses. This has been a very hard year, and although a strong holiday season will not erase the impacts of the last eight months, it can go a long way toward helping them make it through these next difficult months. And if this year involves more mailing out of cards and gifts than usual, please make sure and support our local post office as well. They have been working hard during this pandemic, and our support during this busy time will show them we appreciate their work, and will help ensure our local post office is vital and stays here in our community.

On behalf of the entire city council, and all the city staff, I wish you a happy holiday season and a healthy New Year. I know we all are anxious to turn the page on 2020, and I am confident 2021 will be a great year for our community.

-Bill

Budget and Tax Hearing

All are Invited to Attend Afton's 2020 Budget and Tax Hearing

7:00 pm, Tuesday, December 15, 2020

Meeting will be held via Zoom

**Instructions on how to attend will be posted
on the city website.**

The hearing is an opportunity for the public to ask questions
and provide feedback regarding the proposed budget.

**The 2021 Proposed Budget is available at
City Hall or on the City's website at:**

www.ci.afton.mn.us

(Click the top tab: "City Finance Information")

Want to get involved in CITY DECISIONS?

Do you have an interest in architecture, historic buildings and preserving Afton's heritage? **The Heritage Preservation / Design Review Commission** is looking for members with an architectural background.

The HPC/DR meets to review projects to ensure they meet the City's Design Standards for the Old Village. Meetings are monthly or as needed.

Applications are available on the city website, or by calling City Hall at 651-436-5090.

Meeting Highlights

November 2, 2020 Planning Commission Meeting

The Commission:

- Held a public hearing for the Pamela D. Neary Rev Trust application for a minor subdivision for a lot line rearrangement at 1033 Indian Trail Path.
- Held a public hearing for the FOC Subdivision Sketch Plan for 63 acres of land located in the southeast quadrant of Hudson Road and Manning Ave.
- Discussed a concept plan for Open Space Preservation subdivision with shared driveways.

November 17, 2020 City Council Meeting

The Council:

- Extended the declaration of local emergency.
- Approved a proposal from WSB to develop a bid package for the 2021 Road Improvement Projects.
- Approved a rate increase of 1.4% for 2021 engineering services from WSB.
- Approved the Pamela D. Neary Rev Trust application for a minor subdivision for a lot line rearrangement at 1033 Indian Trail Path.
- Discussed the FOC Subdivision Sketch Plan for 63 acres of land located in the southeast quadrant of Hudson Road and Manning Ave.
- Discussed the concept plan for Open Space Preservation subdivision with shared driveways.
- Discussed the preservation/acquisition of property at 14020 Valley Creek Rd.
- Discussed a draft ordinance amendment regarding screening of accessory buildings on lakefront and streamfront lots, Ord 09-2020.
- Approved an ordinance amendment to add a small project permit requirement to prevent damage to city streets by private contractors, Ordinance 10-2020.

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

Belwin Conservancy Upcoming Events

**Education Center Third Saturday
December 19, 2020 9:00 am - 3:00 pm**

Explore the Belwin Education Center and its miles of rolling, wooded trails. Trails are not groomed in the winter.

The Education Center building will be open for check in, directions, and restrooms. Face masks are required to enter the building.

Belwin Conservancy is pleased to be able to open the Education Center trails to the public once a month. Thanks to our staff and volunteers for making this possible

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



Pet License Renewals Due

ALL DOGS (& cats) that venture out-of-doors in Afton are required to be licensed and have current rabies vaccinations. This is for the health & safety of residents, pets and wildlife.

Two year licenses for altered pets is \$5; unaltered is \$10. Current license period is January 1, 2021 — December 31, 2022. *(What a deal!)* **An additional \$5 late fee applies after March 31.**

For each pet, complete an Animal License Form, found on Afton's Home Page, attach a copy of the current rabies vaccination certificate and appropriate fee per animal. Mail or bring to City Hall.



Annual Fire Extinguisher Recharging / Recertification

According to state fire code all commercial business need to have there fire extinguisher re-certified annually. The fire department has arranged for this service at our station. Homeowners are also welcome.

Who: Commercial and Residential

Where: Lower St Croix Valley Fire Department
1560 St. Croix Tr. S.
Lakeland, Minnesota 55043
(651) 436-7033

When: Monday, December 7 from 9:00 am to Noon

By: Bill Becker Fire & Safety

Cost: Varies and is paid directly to Vendor



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



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

Valley Library December 2020

Washington County Library expands internet access with hotspots, Chromebooks

Washington County Library has added 400 Wi-Fi hotspots and 100 Chromebooks to its collection to help residents access the internet outside of the library. The devices are available to checkout for up to a month with a library card registered in Washington County.

Valley Library is open with limited capacity and modified hours. Visitors can come to pick up holds, browse materials, and use computers without an appointment. Our meeting rooms will remain closed.

When visiting Valley Library, please help protect everyone in the library by:

- Wearing a mask in the building.
- Practicing social distancing from other visitors and staff.
- Keeping your library visit to one hour or less.

Valley Branch Library
384 St Croix Trail S
Lakeland, MN 55043
651-436-5882
www.washcolib.org

Open with limited capacity. Current hours:
Monday, Wednesday, Friday:
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Tuesday, Thursday: 12 to 7 p.m.

PATRON
AFTON, MN 55001

You may view this newsletter

IN COLOR
on the city website.



Please recycle this newsletter after use.

Recycling at Home

Empty and rinse all containers

Glass
Bottles & Jars



Metal
Food & Beverage Cans



Plastic
Bottles & Containers



Cartons



Paper & Cardboard



When in doubt, keep it out. Putting these items in your recycling cart does more harm than good.

NO!

Do Not Bag
Recyclables



No Plastic
Bags or Wrap



No Tangles
(No hoses, wires,
or string lights)



No Shredded
Paper



www.co.washington.mn.us/publichealth | 651-430-6655

Washington
County