



April 2026

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

City of Afton Dashboard

A Summary of Current Happenings

- ◆ The Council tabled a request for a minor subdivision at 1010 Stagecoach Trail until concerns regarding increased right-of-way requirements for county roadways are addressed.
- ◆ Approved a request from the Lower St. Croix Valley Fire Relief Association to modify the terms of their bylaws to begin pension vesting after five years of service rather than 10 years. This is to improve the fire department’s ability to recruit and retain new firefighters.
- ◆ Approved the Developer’s Agreement for the approved office/warehouse building located in the Afton Business Park at the southeast corner of Manning and Hudson Road.

SAR

4th of July Parade

 ★
 ★
 ★ Afton’s 4th of July Parade is funded mostly through private dona-
 ★ tions. As the costs of the parade increase, more funding is need-
 ★ ed. The non-profit Afton Parade Committee is in search of vol-
 ★ unteers to help raise funds to cover the operating costs of the
 ★ parade. If you can help with fundraising or volunteer for other
 ★ parade related activities, please contact Stan Ross, President of
 ★ the Afton Parade Committee, at stan@aftonparade.com.
 ★
 ★

METAL & TIRE RECYCLING DAY

Metal and Tire Recycling Day is scheduled for Saturday, May 16, 2026 at the City Garage, 1675 Stagecoach Trail. 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Residents must unload their own vehicles— come prepared to unload.

- **SCRAP METAL** includes swing sets, bicycles, metal toys, etc. (**NO** appliances are allowed.) All fabric, rubber, wood, fluids, and anything else that is **not** metal **must be removed**.
- **TIRES** must be off the rims (metal rims can be recycled). Tire size is limited to your ability to lift them. **NO** large tires such as tractor tires. This is for personal disposal only. No commercial supplies of tires.

PLEASE BE AWARE: A MAXIMUM OF 4 TIRES PER HOUSEHOLD WILL BE ACCEPTED. EXCEPTIONS TO THIS MAY BE CONSIDERED BUT RESIDENTS MUST CONTACT CITY HALL PRIOR TO THE EVENT IF THEY ARE REQUESTING TO BRING MORE THAN 4 TIRES.

Please be patient and cooperate with staff by following their direction in lining up and unloading your metal items and tires.

CITY MEETINGS

April 6, 2026

Planning Commission Meeting
7:00 PM

April 7, 2026

Natural Resources & Groundwater
Committee
5:00 PM

April 8, 2026

Heritage Preservation Commission
6:00 PM

April 13, 2026

Parks Committee
6:00 PM

April 21, 2026

City Council Meeting
7:00 PM

Livestreaming is available for City Council and Planning Commission Meetings.

Information on how to view 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

aftonmn.gov

Important Numbers

- Animal Control 715-220-1332
- Building Inspector 651-436-6469
- Burning Permits 651-436-7033
- 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

Two of the more popular services the city provides each year are coming up. The Natural Resources and Groundwater Committee (NRGC) will once again be facilitating the city's well water testing program this spring. This program has been going on for almost 20 years. These are not the tests we are sadly becoming more aware of related to PFAS, but they do provide good information on nitrogen and Coliform bacteria and have helped the city create a data base on nitrogen levels in our groundwater over time. Information on how to sign up will be in the May newsletter. Thank you to all the NRGC members who make this service possible.

We have also set the date for the metal and tire recycling day. We always fill multiple dumpsters and ensure everything is recycled and disposed of properly. The date and time is listed in the newsletter.

As many of you know, the state legislative session is underway, and the city has been closely monitoring several bills that were originally introduced in 2024 and are back again this session. These bills limit local zoning and land use controls, (particularly H.F. 3895 and S.F. 4123). While the aim of these bills is to address serious housing issues around the state, these bills will essentially preempt local zoning controls. Like we did last time, we are working with our legislators, the League of Minnesota Cities, and the Association of Small Cities to find solutions to the problems the bills try to address without the negative consequences that would result from stripping cities and townships of this long-standing authority. As I wrote back then, the old expression "If you have seen one city, you have seen one city" speaks to the fact that each city is unique, with its own challenges and long-term goals. A one-size-fits-all set of minimum lot sizes, densities, and building types fails to take into account such basic things as existing infrastructure, access to public transit, jobs, and PFAS pollution in the groundwater; let alone communities like ours who have worked for decades to preserve agriculture and protect surface and groundwater, steep slopes and wildlife corridors. I would urge you to pay attention to this issue as the legislative session continues and let your elected representatives know if you have concerns.

-Bill

4th of July Parade

Afton's 4th of July Parade will now be charging \$50 per parade entry. This change is necessary to cover the significant increases in operating expenses. Please go to www.aftonparade.com and register to enter the parade and pay the new entry fee.

Rinta Community Garden

Several plots are still available at the Rinta Community Garden for the 2026 gardening season. If you are interested in a garden plot at Rinta, contact Afton City Hall or go to the Afton website for an application (Located under "Parks, Park Reservations & Special Events"). Complete and return it to Afton City Hall.

If you have additional questions, contact Deb Ringwelski, dmring29@gmail.com

City of Afton is Hiring

Seasonal Part-Time Public Works Maintenance

Starting pay rate: \$17.50 – 18.50 per hour, depending on level of experience.

Work Schedule: Approximately 15-20 hours per week; Some weekend hours.

Duties: Responsible for general public works and parks maintenance, as well as cleaning and routine maintenance of City buildings.

Qualifications: Experience operating lawn tractors and weed whips. Must possess a valid driver's license with satisfactory driving record. Must be 17 years of age or older and able to frequently lift/move 50 pounds.

An application is available at the City Hall or online at aftonmn.gov

Well Water Sampling For June 2026

The NRGC will once again be offering a program to test the well water for residents of Afton for Nitrates and Coliform bacteria. Members of the NRGC will be on hand to collect sample bottles from Afton residents two Tuesday mornings in June. Sample kits will be available in May. Full details will follow in the next newsletter.

Meeting Highlights

March 2, 2026 Planning Commission Meeting

The Commission:

- Held a public hearing for a Minor Subdivision application to create one additional lot at 1010 Stagecoach Tr S.
- Held a public hearing for a Variance application for an accessory building at 2249 Neal Ave S.

March 17, 2026 City Council Meeting

The Council:

- Tabled the Minor Subdivision application to create one additional lot at 1010 Stagecoach Tr S to obtain more information from the County regarding the road easement requirements.
- Tabled the Variance application for an accessory building at 2249 Neal Ave S. to obtain more information.
- Approved the Lower St Croix Valley Fire Fighters Relief Association's pension vesting changes and supported the policy change regarding when a pension benefit increase can be made.
- Approved the Developer's Agreement for the Afton Business Park Second Addition.

MEETING PACKETS, VIDEOS AND APPROVED MEETING MINUTES ARE AVAILABLE AT:
aftonmn.gov

Afton State Park Events

March 2026

THURSDAY, APRIL 2

1-3 p.m. Track Tales

Meet at the Visitor Center.

FRIDAY, APRIL 3

10-11 a.m. Spring Nature Walk

Meet at the Visitor Center.

SATURDAY, APRIL 11

10 a.m.-12 p.m. Fossil Friends

Meet at the Visitor Center.

SATURDAY, APRIL 18

1-2 p.m. Wildflower Walk

Meet at the Upper Picnic Area.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22

1-3 p.m. Earth Day – Snake Special

Meet at the Visitor Center.

For event details see https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/state_parks/events.html?location=spk00100

If you need an accommodation, please contact Carolyn at Carolyn.kocken@state.mn.us or 651-242-4977, two weeks prior to the event.

Belwin Conservancy Upcoming Events

Saving Space for Wildness in your Yard – Part 3: Getting Ready for Spring

April 11 2026 09:00am - 12:00pm

\$10, \$20 or \$35 / per person / per session

Writing Words in Service to the River

April 18 2026 03:00pm - 05:00pm

Free

Frog Walk

April 21 2026 07:30pm - 09:00pm

Sliding Scale of \$10, \$18 or \$25 / Person

Nature Journaling: Signs of Spring-

May 03 2026 10:00am - 12:00pm

Frog Walk (SPSCE)

May 04 2026 07:30pm - 09:00pm

Sliding Scale of \$10, \$18 or \$25 / Person

Belwin Bison Festal

May 16 2026 10:00am - 02:00pm 15601 Hud-

son Rd. N, Lakeland, MN

\$10, \$20 or \$35 per car

5k "Run with the Bison" Fun Run-

May 16 2026 10:00am - 11:30am 15601 Hud-

son Rd. N, Lakeland, MN

Advanced Registration: \$20 per runner

Day of Registration: \$25 per runner

Free for runners under 12 years of age

Frog Walk

May 18 2026 07:30pm - 09:00pm

Sliding Scale of \$10, \$18 or \$25 / Person

For details and registration contact:

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

Washington County 2026 Shredding Events

Free paper shredding events are held at the Environmental Centers throughout the year.

- Open to Washington County residents and business only.
- Proof of residency required.
- Limit: 6 boxes weighing no more than 30 lbs. each.
- Documents are shredded on site by Shred Right and recycled.
- No other material drop off accepted at shredding event.

2026 Shredding Events: 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

South Environmental Center

4039 Cottage Grove Drive, Woodbury, MN 55129

- Wednesday, April 22
- Wednesday, June 24
- Wednesday, September 9

For details: <https://www.washingtoncountymn.gov/3031/Shredding-Events>

Environmental Center Phone: 651-275-7475



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

Library Closed:
Wednesday April 22nd for Staff Training

For Adults:
The Valley Library Book Club meets **5:00-6:00pm** on the 4th Thursday of each month. This book club meets in person in the Valley Library Conference Room. The title selection for the **Thursday April 23rd** meeting is *The Women* by Kristin Hannah.

Do you need help with a technology issue? Register for 30 minutes of dedicated one on one help with a Valley Library staff member. Technology help is offered on the **third Thursday** of every month. Registration is required.

AARP Free Tax Assistance will be offered by **appointment only** through April 13th at the Washington County Service Center in Cottage Grove. Register by calling the Park Grove Library at 651-459-2040.

Register today for an online program *Succession Planning for Digital Assets* on **Monday April 27 6:00-7:30pm**.

For Kids:
Mondays 10:30-11:00 am Storytime

Monday, April 13th 10:30-11:00 Music and Movement Storytime

Thursday, April 9th 6:00 pm Pajama Storytime

Saturday, April 18th 11:00-1:00 Introduction to Ojibwe Beading

Thursday, April 16th 2:30-4:00 pm After School Adventures: Mock Caldecott Award

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, aftonmn.gov



Please recycle this newsletter after use.



Join our **FREE** community event!
Saturday, May 2nd 10:30-2:30
at Afton- Lakeland Elementary School
Silent Auction, Inflatables, Concessions, & fun.
We'll be there rain or shine.
*food is an additional cost