



August 2023

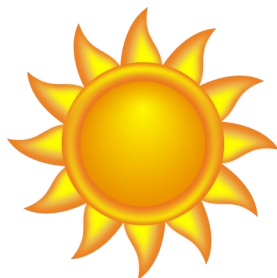
3033 St. Croix Trail South
P.O. Box 219
Afton, MN 55001

City of Afton Dashboard
A Summary of Current Happenings

Identifying and Sealing Abandoned Wells in Afton

- Did you know that there may be abandoned drinking water wells in Afton that are not sealed? These wells can be a significant cause of pollutants entering the ground water and polluting our drinking water.
- An abandoned well can be recognized by the steel well shaft in the ground. Water wells come in various sizes ranging from a 4 to 6 inch diameter steel pipe. Also there may be hand dug wells that can be as large as 36 inches in diameter.
- A properly sealed well has all pumping equipment removed, is filled with concrete and is identified with a tracking number.
- If you know of an unsealed abandoned well, please contact the city (651-436-5090) or county (651-430-6655) and report its location. The well will be identified, numbered, and located by GPS coordinates.
- A well must be sealed by a licensed well contractor.
- Washington County has grants that reimburse 50% or 100% of well sealing costs, up to \$2,000. Please visit - [https://www.co.washington.mn.us/640/Abandoned Wells](https://www.co.washington.mn.us/640/AbandonedWells)
- Next time you are walking your property keep an eye out for the signs of an unsealed abandoned well.

SAR



CITY MEETINGS

August 1, 2023

Natural Resources & Groundwater
Committee 6:00 PM

August 7, 2023

Planning Commission Meeting
7:00 PM

Date to be determined

Heritage Preservation Committee
Meeting

August 15, 2023

City Council Meeting 7:00 PM

August 23, 2023

Parks Committee Meeting
6:00 PM

August 28, 2023

Planning Commission 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

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

EMERGENCY 911

Notes from the Mayor

At its July 18 meeting, the Council approved a plan from the Park Committee to do a small (.15 acre) native prairie pilot project on the levee in the Old Village. When the levee project was first done Valley Branch Watershed District, one of our funding partners, had as a project priority getting native plantings on the levee. The initial seeding was done but it did not take. This will be attempt number two, but starting in a much smaller area. The Council's approval was contingent on sign off from the Army Corps of Engineers and obtaining a grant to cover the majority of the cost. We still have some work to do, but I believe we will get there and the project will move forward. If the grant is received the City can provide part of its funding match as in-kind volunteer hours. If you are interested in seeing how the native prairie planting and establishment process is done, and are able to volunteer some time, please reach out to the City staff, or a member of the Park Committee to let them know you can help when the project gets started.

This recommendation from the Park Committee made me realize that I want to share something I have witnessed over the last several months as I have attended various committee meetings. We have a great group of volunteers on all our committees. All are talking about exciting projects and bringing new ideas and energy to enhance our community. Besides this levee project, the Park Committee over the last two years installed the pollinator garden along the bike path behind City Hall. If you have not had a chance to see it, please take a look at the results of all that hard work. It is really starting to come in and has excellent plant identifications throughout.

Our Heritage Preservation Commission recently obtained a grant to work on the history of the Valley Creek Women's Group and are now talking about updating the two historic walking tours developed by our Afton Historical Society. One is for the Old Village and the other for Valley Creek Trail. They hope to utilize new technology to make these tours more interactive, including downloading text, video and audio via a QR code, and want the tours to include all the historic sites in the city.

Besides all the normal work our Planning Commission does, they have had several meetings with members of the Natural Resources and Groundwater Commission (NRGC) discussing ways to protect groundwater. The NRGC also just completed another round of well testing.

We are fortunate to have so many dedicated volunteers. And on that note, the Council appointed Lori Jean Swanson to fill the last vacancy on the Park Committee. Thank you, Lori!

Lastly, even though we had some rain, the 4th of July parade went off without a hitch and was another fun day. It takes a lot of time and work to pull off that event. A huge thank you to the nonprofit Afton 4th of July Parade Committee that puts on the event, and the large number of volunteers who helped make sure everyone had a great day.

-Bill



AGENCY OPEN HOUSE

August 16th | 4:00pm - 7:00pm

Main Office, 1875 Northwestern Ave S., Stillwater, MN 55082

Celebrate FamilyMeans' 60th Anniversary!
Fun for the whole family.

Interactive Program Stations
Free Nelson's Ice Cream and Bounce House
Smug Pug Food Truck
Dave Burkhart Live Music

Washington
County

Environmental eUpdate

Join the Stop Food Waste Challenge

About 40% of food is wasted somewhere along the supply chain, and you may be surprised to learn that much of that food waste happens at home. By taking the Stop Food Waste Challenge and committing to actions that reduce wasted food, we can save money, fight climate change, provide for our families, and improve our cooking skills. The challenge goes from August 1 through August 31.

Join the challenge at: <https://stopfoodwaste.ecochallenge.org/>

Meeting Highlights

June 26, 2023 Planning Commission Meeting

The Commission:

- Held a public hearing for an application for an amended Conditional Use Permit at 12585 Hudson Road S for a building addition.
- Held a public hearing for a Preliminary Plat application at 4857 Manning Ave S for a subdivision creating a total of 4 lots.

July 18, 2023 City Council Meeting

The Council:

- Approved an application for an amended Conditional Use Permit at 12585 Hudson Road S for a building addition.
- Approved a Preliminary Plat application at 4857 Manning Ave S for a subdivision creating a total of 4 lots.
- Discussed the draft shoreland ordinance amendment regarding tree protection and replacement.

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

Belwin Conservancy Upcoming Events

Nature Memories Open House

Tuesday, August 1, 2023

10:00 am - 1:00 pm

Presented in partnership with Family Means Belwin Conservancy Wetlands Classroom, 1553 Stagecoach Tr. S.

Cost: Free

Walk on the Wildside

Wednesday, August 16, 2023

4:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Presented in partnership with Saint Paul Public Schools Community Education Belwin Conservancy Education Site, 1553 Stagecoach Tr. S.,

Music in the Trees

Saturday, August 19th and Sunday, August 20th, 2023

11:00 am - 3:00 pm

Belwin Conservancy Education Site, 1553 Stagecoach Tr. S..

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

For details and to register for events contact:

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



The Valley Branch Watershed District (VBWD) is a public organization tasked with protecting and managing local water resources within an area spanning 14 cities and townships in Washington and Ramsey Counties. The VBWD is seeking input from you as it begins updating its Watershed Management Plan which will guide VBWD actions for the next 10 years. Please take a brief (5-10 minute) survey to help the VBWD better understand your concerns and priorities regarding our local water resources.

Link to survey: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VBWD_Planning

QR code:





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AFTON, MN 55001

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Valley Library Events & Important Dates

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

Tuesday, August 1
2:00 - 4:00
Crafternoon for Kids

Thursday, August 10
5:00-6:00
Brondini Comedy Magic

Wednesday, August 16
1:00—2:00
Snake, Rattle & Roll

Thursday, August 17
2:00-4:30
Brick Builder's Club

Thursday, August 24
5:00
Valley Library Book Club

For 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.

Field of Bands CO-SPONSORED BY KQRS 92

September 16, 2023
12 NOON - 8:00 PM

Featuring the music of:

Arch Allies
Americas Premier Tribute Band

GNO
Girls Night Out
SUPERSTAR WOMEN OF COUNTRY

Westside
Minnesota's Own Legend of Funk

Wayward Boyz Klub
Featuring Minnesota Legend and Rocker, Frank Kohler

Washington County Fairgrounds

BEER FOOD BRING YOUR
GARDEN TRUCKS LAWN CHAIR

Tickets Available at: 5cityyellowribbon.com

\$20 in advance
\$30 day of show
Follow us on FACEBOOK

VIP tickets
available also

FUNDAISER TO BENEFIT SERVICE-MEMBERS, VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES

In Memory of Randy Kopesky

YELLOW RIBBON ALLIANCE LOWER ST. CROIX VALLEY