




# September 2024

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



Afton Historical  
Society & Museum

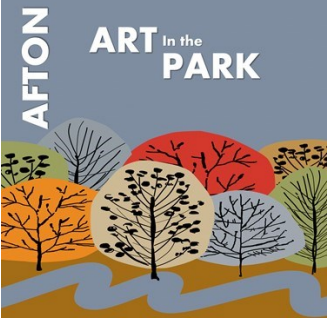
The Afton Historical Society and Museum would like to invite Afton residents to participate in a collaborative focus group and dinner to help guide the museum's future interpretive plan.

Monday, September 16, 2024  
 The Afton Historic House Inn, 3291 St. Croix Trail

90-minute workshop with activities & discussion, 3:30p or 6:00p.  
 + Buffett-style dinner provided by The Afton Historic House Inn  
 + Each participant will receive a \$200 stipend

Space is limited. From the applications, 24 to 30 individuals will be selected to serve, all applicants will be notified, Register today!

To participate please go to [aftonhistoricalmuseum.com](http://aftonhistoricalmuseum.com)  
 Any questions, please email [aftonmuseumevents@gmail.com](mailto:aftonmuseumevents@gmail.com)



**Afton Art in the  
Park**  
**September 28 & 29,  
2024**

Saturday 10am – 5pm  
 Sunday 10am - 4pm  
<http://exploreafton.com/>

**Washington County  
Upcoming Environmental Events**

Shredding Day August 14 | 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. South Environmental Center, Woodbury

Fix-it Clinic September 7 | 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. South Environmental Center, Woodbury

One-Day Collection Event September 21 | 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. Lily Lake Ice Arena, Stillwater

Halloween Costume Swap October 2 | 4 p.m. - 6 p.m. South Environmental Center, Woodbury

For details visit: [WashCoRecycles.com](http://WashCoRecycles.com)

**CITY MEETINGS**

**September 2, 2024**  
*City Office Closed*  
*In observance of Labor Day*

**September 3, 2024**  
 Natural Resources & Groundwater  
 Committee  
 5:00 PM

**September 9, 2024**  
 Parks Committee  
 6:00 PM

**September 11, 2024**  
 Heritage Preservation Commission  
 6:00 PM

**September 17, 2024**  
 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](http://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 August meeting the council approved a change to the farm winery ordinance to allow local growers to offer tastings at their vineyards. They will also be able to sell bottles of wine they produce during those tastings for visitors to take home. This is another step taken to help support agriculture in our city. I want to thank Cody Kaye for bringing this forward, and working with the city for many years to find an option that would allow us to help our growers. This change is fairly limited, and does not allow larger operations that many of us think of when we imagine visiting a big winery with food and events. But it will hopefully allow our growers to promote their products and allow for some direct sales that will help sustain them.

Preserving agricultural uses is a priority for this council as it not only honors our history and traditions, it helps preserve and protect the open space that is an integral part of what makes Afton such a beautiful place. I hope that you will sign up for a tour and tasting when this farm winery is up and running, and continue to support all of our local farmers.

Starting October 1, residents of Afton and other communities in a targeted area will be able to sign up for a Food Scraps Pickup Program. Details will be made available when residents can sign up, but I wanted to let you know communications from the county will be sent out the first week of October. The little I know about it does sound intriguing. Participants will get a year's worth of special bags that are used to specifically dispose of food scraps, and are simply put into the regular trash bin. These bags are then sorted out at the Recycling and Energy Center and are then professionally composted. More details to come.

-Bill

### Meeting Highlights

#### August 5, 2024 Planning Commission Meeting

##### **The Commission:**

- Held a public hearing for the Rusty Bucket Acres Conditional User Permit Application for a Nature Center use at 15237 Afton Blvd S.
- Held a public hearing for an ordinance amending the definition and performance standards for farm wineries.

#### August 20, 2024 City Council Meeting

##### **The Council:**

- Approved an ordinance amending the definition and performance standards for farm wineries (Ordinance 09-2024).
- Approved an engineering agreement for the preparation of plans and specifications for pavement reclamation projects on Valley Creek Trail and several other roads

MEETING PACKETS, VIDEOS AND APPROVED MEETING MINUTES ARE AVAILABLE AT:

[www.ci.afton.mn.us](http://www.ci.afton.mn.us)

### Belwin Conservancy Upcoming Events

#### **Be Bird Friendly: Land Stewardship for Bird Conservation**

September 10, 2024 5:00pm - 7:00pm  
795 Indian Trail

#### **Night in Nature**

September 12, 2024 6:30pm - 9:00pm  
1553 Stagecoach Trail S.

#### **Women Walking**

September 14, 2024 6:00pm - 9:00pm  
795 Indian Trail

**Author Walk & Talk** at Belwin's Oxbow Trails September 21, 2024 10:00am - 12:00pm  
2638 St. Croix Trail

**Donor & Volunteer Appreciation Open Hiking** September 28, 2024 9:00am - 2:00pm  
1553 Stagecoach Trail S.

For details and registration contact:

**Belwin Conservancy**  
1553 Stagecoach Trail South  
Afton MN 55001  
651-436-5189  
[www.belwin.org](http://www.belwin.org)

## 2024 Water Sampling Program

In June 2024 Afton residents were given the opportunity to have their well water tested for nitrates and Coliform bacteria. 150 sample kits were made available, but only 68 kits were picked up by Afton Residents. Of the 68 kits, samples from 58 wells were returned for analysis. The EPA drinking water standard for safe water is 10mg/L (milligrams per liter) or less for nitrate-nitrogen. Coliform testing is reported as absent or present. If Coliforms are present, the sample is analyzed to see if E. coli are present.

Nitrate results ranged from 0.05 (not detected) to 17.37. Higher levels were again noted in the more western parts of Afton (more open, frequently agriculture now in or in the past) and lower to the east and south (more trees, less agriculture now or in past). A map with nitrate results by quarter quarter section will be on Afton’s website with this article.

Nineteen samples tested positive for Coliform bacteria, including one with E. Coli (the type of Coliform bacteria that could indicate sewage contamination). Overall, this is 33% of all tested wells in Afton for 2024. A map with positive Coliform results by quarter quarter section will be on Afton’s website. These wells were scattered throughout Afton. Washington County sends out instructions on the use of a bleach solution that can to be used to disinfect a well that shows the presence of any Coliform growth for those wells testing positive for coliform growth. For this year, again there was no good correlation between nitrate levels and the presence of Coliforms. Of the 33 wells with nitrate results of <0.05 (no nitrates found), 14 grew Coliforms (42%) while none of the 6 samples with nitrate results of 5-10 grew Coliforms, and one of two wells with nitrate results of >10 grew Coliforms. Of note there were 4 wells testing positive for Coliforms in the Old Village.

As of July 30, of the 19 wells with positive Coliform tests on the original collection date, 7 retest cultures have been done. Four of the 7 remain positive.

Ongoing testing of well water for both nitrates and Coliform bacteria is the best way for well owners to monitor the quality and suitability of their drinking water. With this information, one can take corrective action if needed. With ongoing participation in this city sponsored well water sampling program more data are provided to help residents understand the health of our shared valuable water resource—our drinking water.

In the future we hope to continue to provide sampling opportunities to the residents of Afton, and we encourage you to participate in this project. The members of the NRGCC would like to thank the City Council for their ongoing support for this program. We wish to thank all those Afton residents who participated as this allows us to help monitor the health of our water.

NITRATE LEVEL	NUMBER OF SAMPLES	NUMBER WITH COLIFORMS	%	
0-2.0	43	16	37%	
For 0-0.05		33	14	42%
For >0.05-2.0		10	2	20%
2.1-2.5	7	2	29%	
5.1-10.0	6	0	0%	
>10	2	1	50%	
TOTAL	58	19	33%	

-Natural Resources and Groundwater Committee



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

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## Valley Library Events & Important Dates

The Library will be closed Monday September 2<sup>nd</sup> in observance of Labor Day.

**Did you know** that September is Library Card Sign-Up Month? It is super easy to register for a Washington County Library card – simply bring anything with your current address to the Library. Need a new library card number when Valley is closed? Just go to our website, <https://www.washcolib.org/273/A-Library-Card>, fill out the form, and a new library card will be processed for you within 24 hours.

The Valley Library Art Cart is available whenever the library is open. We provide the supplies and you provide the creativity!

For Adults:

**Thursday September 19<sup>th</sup> 2:00-4:00** Finding Your Ancestors: Internet Genealogy 101. Registration is required

The Washington County Library Fall Series *Organize Your Life* begins in September with The Empty Nest: Right-Size Your Home at the **Oakdale Library on Saturday September 14 11:00-12:30**. Registration is required.

**The Valley Library Book Club** meets 5:00-6:00pm on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of every month. The title selection for the **Thursday September 26<sup>th</sup>** meeting is "Hamnet" by Maggie O'Farrell. Copies are available to borrow at the Valley branch.

For Kids:

**Every Monday 10:30-11:00 am** Storytime Join us at 10:30 a.m. on Mondays for Storytime at Valley Library.

**Monday, September 23 10:30-11:00**  
Music and Movement Storytime

**Saturday, September 23 and Saturday, September 28 11:00-1:00** Kid Builders

**Monday, September 30 11:00-2:00**  
Now Make Art: Clay City

**Thursday, September 12 3:45-4:45** Art Lab: Box Art

For complete information and to register for programs contact:

**Valley Library 651-436-5882**  
[www.washcolib.org](http://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](http://www.ci.afton.mn.us)



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