

The Arlington Report

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Jim Kreft -- Mayor
Curt Reetz -- Council Member
Mike Vrklan -- Council Member
Galen Wills -- Council Member
John Griep -- Council Member
Gregg Borchert -- Council Member

APPOINTED OFFICIALS

Matt Jaunich -- City Administrator
Dennis Schultz -- EDA Director
Lisa Tesch -- Deputy Clerk
Vicki Pomplun -- Admin. Ass't
Lana Woehler -- Community Center Coordinator
Dan Thomes -- Streets/Parks Supt.
Keith Doetkott -- Maint. Worker
Bruce Rovinsky -- Chief of Police
Scott Bennett -- Police Officer

CONTRACTED SERVICES

Ross Arneson -- City Attorney
Cynthia Smith-Strack -- Planning & Zoning Consultant
Darin Haslip -- Building Inspector
People Service -- Water/Wastewater
Joel Hawbaker (Bolton & Menk) -- City Engineer

PHONE NUMBERS

City Hall: 964-2378
Fax Line: 964-5973
After-Hours On-Call:
507-327-6601
Fire Garage: 964-2279
Police Dept: 964-5200
Library: 964-2490
Hospital: 964-2271
S.E. School: 964-2292
Post Office: 964-5503

OTHER SERVICES

Water/Sewer/Electric Services
City of Arlington (964-2378)
Gas Service
CenterPoint Energy (800-245-2377)
Cable Service
Mediacom (800-332-0245)
Internet/Phone Service
Frontier (800-435-1504)
Garbage Services
Waste Management (800-422-5785)
Tidy Disposal (952-873-2636)
Evergreen Sanitation (877-601-4467)

COMMUNITY CLEAN UP DAY IS MONDAY, APRIL 21 FROM 8 A.M. TO 4:30 P.M.

What: Rake, sweep, or shovel any leaves, dirt, or other organic debris that is close to, in, or around curbs and streets. Then bag and take it to the Compost Site (on Freedom Drive near wastewater treatment facility) where it can be weighed and the phosphorus reductions will be measured. For those unable to transport bags to the compost site, the City will pickup bags set curbside this day only. *This does not include entire yard debris.*

Why: Phosphorus is a major source of water pollution. Impervious surfaces, such as city streets and parking lots, provide a pathway for phosphorus to get into the water. Phosphorus on streets comes from decaying organic matter such as leaves, branches and loose dirt. Water monitoring tells us that there are two peak periods for the introduction of phosphorus from city streets into local waters-- Spring and Fall. Five garbage bags of debris contain one pound of phosphorus, which contributes to the growth of 1,000 pounds of algae. **Needed:** Volunteers to help the elderly with their boulevards/areas next to curbs. **Program Support:** Friends of the Minnesota Valley, Minnesota River Board, Minnesota River Basin Data Center and Coalition for a Clean Minnesota River.

SPRING CLEAN UP DAY IS SATURDAY, MAY 3 FROM 8 A.M. TO 1 P.M.

Where: Arlington Municipal Parking Lot. **Who can bring their materials to the site?** Residents who live in the city limits of Arlington (please be prepared to show your driver's license or an alternate form of identification). No waste from non-residential customers, contractors, businesses or those residing outside of city limits will be accepted. **Acceptable items, preparation guidelines & Fees:** General "junk," furniture items (couches, chairs, mattresses, etc.), small quantities of remodeling materials may be disposed of at no charge. Only household-type appliances such as stoves, washers, dryers, dish washers, microwaves, refrigerators, air conditioners, freezers, dehumidifiers, water heaters and furnaces may be disposed of for \$15 each (Cash/Checks - payable to the City of Arlington - only will be accepted - No credit cards). Electronics such as television sets (Under 25" TV - \$25; 25" or Larger TV - \$35), stereos, computers (computer monitor - \$20), personal printers/copiers/scanners have a minimal fee (cash only - no checks or credit cards will be accepted).

Baleable metal, scrap metal, lawn mowers and any steel may be disposed of at no charge. Used Motor Oil disposal is also free of charge. **Unacceptable Items:** No yard waste or compost items, hazardous waste (paints, liquids, chemicals), motor oil filters, antifreeze, car batteries, tires, fluorescent light bulbs, cement or asphalt, or anything containing petroleum products. *Need to get rid of Household Hazardous Waste Collection?* Call Tri-County Solid Waste Office: 507-381-9196. Located at Blue Earth Co. Regional HHW facility, 651 Summit Ave., Mankato.

COMPOST SITE TO OPEN SOON

Open 7 days a week during daylight hours for residents in city limits. Located near wastewater treatment facility on Freedom Drive (SE corner of town). *Allowable Compost:* Lawn Clippings - Garden Compost - Leaves (no plastic bags). *Small Brush Pile Area - No* stumps or logs. Chipping on location for large quantities at a cost. Call City Office for chipping services and to see when the facility opens.

REBATES AVAILABLE FOR ENERGY-EFFICIENT APPLIANCES

Conservation Improvement Program (CIP) rebates are available through the City of Arlington's Electrical Department. To qualify, an appliance must have a current EnergyStar rating and be in use by an electric customer of the City of Arlington. Rebates are available for the following appliances: window air conditioner (\$30), dishwasher (\$50), refrigerator (\$55), clothes-washer (\$100), central air conditioning (\$350), and commercial lighting retrofit projects. Rebate requests are processed on a "first-come first-serve" basis. Funding for the rebate program is limited and any rebate requests received after the funding limit has been reached may be held-over to the following year. Stop in at the City Office for a rebate application.

HYDRANT FLUSHING TO TAKE PLACE

Residents of Arlington should be aware that People Service will be flushing water hydrants during the week of April 21-25. During this time, water pressure may fluctuate and residents may notice some discoloration and cloudiness in the water. The water is safe to drink and should clear up in a few days. Running tap water for a short time should alleviate the problem.

PET LICENSES PAST DUE!

All pet licenses issued in 2007 expired on March 31st. Residents who have not picked up a new license are required to do so by Ordinance 206 for all domesticated pets (dogs & cats). A health certificate showing that the pet is current on its rabies vaccination is required. *The cost for a pet license after April 11th is \$15.*

City of Arlington, Sibley County

Contact us at:
204 Shamrock Drive
Arlington, MN 55307

Phone: 507-964-2378
Fax: 507-964-5973
E-mail: cityhall@arlingtonmn.com



A Beautiful City Growing in Unity



THE MAYOR'S CORNER

On Thursday, March 13, as a representative of our city council, I traveled to the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum for a day-long conference where the value of trees and urban forests ecosystems was discussed. Framing the discussions on trees' familiar, inherent attributes--their stately beauty, comforting shade, and nesting wildlife, the speakers quickly moved on to describe other valuable characteristics. From a homeowner's point of view, I was surprised to learn that mature trees can enhance a property's value by as much as 15%, and the shade from a well placed copse of trees can reduce summer cooling expenses by over 25%. From a municipal elected official's perspective, I was intrigued by the idea of an established boulevard forest's ability to reduce storm-water runoff and mitigate dissolved phosphorous. As a member of today's growing environmental stewardship movement, I was excited to be reminded of a forest's ability to filter our air, sequester atmospheric carbon dioxide, and actually cool our air through evapotranspiration. As a fiscal conservative, I was relieved to hear that sustaining a healthy urban forest is unexpectedly inexpensive. At day-end, I felt reinvigorated and reassured about our City Council's efforts to maintain and enhance Arlington's urban forest.

One of the five mayoral goals for 2008 is for our city to be recognized by The National Arbor Day Foundation as a "Tree City USA". Through their "Tree City USA" program, The National Arbor Day Foundation is intent on developing and raising municipal awareness, stewardship, and pride in our country's urban forests. Before we submit Arlington's application at year-end, a number of criteria must be met, including an annual Arbor Day observance and proclamation, adoption of a community tree ordinance, and a city forestry program with an annual budget at least \$2 per capita.

Annually, the last Friday in April is celebrated state-wide and nationally as Arbor Day. Friday, April 25, 2008 will soon be officially proclaimed the first observed Arbor Day in the City of Arlington! It is my hope that our inaugural celebration will serve as a date for our community to commence a re-dedication and commitment to the preservation and enrichment of Arlington's urban forest.

Many of us recall the devastation that Dutch Elm disease reaped in the 1970s when it summarily reduced our beautiful main street alameda to lines of lonely stumps and sun-baked asphalt. The financial repercussions and aesthetic wreckage of that devastation led the Arlington City Council to adopt a shade tree ordinance in 1979. It specifically addresses trees planted in the city boulevard--regulates their placement in the boulevard, describes acceptable species, and assigns responsibility for their ownership, maintenance,

and removal. The ordinance also calls for a municipal shade tree board and charges that board with "general supervision of shade tree management and control within the City of Arlington". While our standing tree ordinance meets the standard for the "Tree City USA" application, our city staff and council are carefully reviewing and editing the ordinance, and will, by the end of the year, produce an updated form.

For budget year 2008, we have allocated \$5,000 to start a true city forestry program. These funds will likely go towards our Arbor Day celebration, education, and tangible boulevard tree improvements and upkeep.

Enjoy Spring, and help Arlington celebrate it's first Arbor Day Observance!

— Mayor Jim Kreft (jkreft@arlingtonmn.com)

BUILDING PERMITS NEEDED

With the spring season upon us, ideas for home improvement projects are starting to begin. Back in December of 2000, the City of Arlington passed Ordinance 166, adopting the Minnesota State Building Code. With this adoption in place, residents need to remember that a building permit is needed for most projects. Permits are not required for cosmetic improvements such as painting, carpeting, kitchen cabinets, floor covering and normal maintenance or repairs without structural changes. However, the work may need to be done by a licensed contractor. Roofing, siding, decks, windows, additions, electrical, plumbing, & heating are all jobs that need a permit. Questions regarding whether you need a permit or a licensed contractor should be directed to the City's Building Inspector. So you may be asking yourself, why do I need a building permit? Building permits are the means the City of Arlington uses to reduce potential hazards and unsafe construction practices thereby ensuring the public health, safety and welfare. Besides protecting the public health, safety and welfare of its residents, the adoption of the State Building Code can serve as a benefit to the community in a number of other ways. First off, your home is an investment. If your construction project does not comply with City Codes, the value of your investment could be greatly reduced. Property insurers may not cover work done without permits and inspections. If you decide to sell your home or buildings that have had modifications without a permit, you may be required to tear down the addition, leave it unoccupied, or do costly repairs. Secondly, a property owner who can show that code requirements were strictly and consistently met - as demonstrated by a code official's care-

fully maintained records at City Hall - has a strong ally if something happens to trigger a potentially destructive lawsuit. Thirdly, your permit also allows City Code Officials to protect the public by reducing the potential hazards of unsafe construction and ensuring public health, safety and welfare. By following code guidelines, your completed project will meet minimum standards of safety and will be less likely to cause injury to you, your family, your friends or your future. The Building Code provides for more consistency in construction design, standards and safety throughout town. The building code allows for home buyers to be reasonably confident that the home they purchase will perform as they expect, which in turn provides stable property values. With the State Building Code in place, and through strict code enforcement, the City will be able to help reduce or eliminate blight and substandard structures. For more information on the State Building Code, or for more information on what is required of your construction project or contractor, contact City Hall. Also, please remember that projects still need to have the zoning checked before any work can be done. Zoning does not need to be checked for normal maintenance and repairs, or for roofing, siding, windows, electrical, plumbing and heating work. City zoning and building laws can be reviewed at City Hall or at the City's web site. The City's building inspector is Darin Haslip of 101 Development Resources, Inc. (507-351-4599 or 507-642-3816) and the zoning administrator is Cynthia Smith-Strack of MDG (contact city offices).