

The Arlington Report

SPRING CLEAN UP DAY IS SATURDAY, APRIL 25 FROM 8 A.M. TO 1 P.M.

Where: Arlington Municipal Parking Lot (West Main Street) **Who can bring their materials to the site?** Residents who live in the city limits of Arlington (please be prepared to show your drivers 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.

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.

SEVERE WEATHER AWARENESS WEEK

This year, Severe Weather Awareness Week in Minnesota is April 20 to April 24. Severe Weather Awareness Week is a good opportunity for residents of Arlington to make sure they're ready for severe weather when it strikes. There are some simple steps you can take to make sure you are ready if severe weather strikes. An emergency kit including a radio, a flashlight, batteries, and a supply of food and water will help weather a storm. Having the right information can also be a lifesaver, and Severe Weather Awareness Week is a good time to learn what to do if a lightning storm, heat wave, tornado, or flash flood strikes. In conjunction with Severe Weather Awareness Week, Thursday, April 23 is Tornado Drill Day. There will be a simulated tornado watch at 9 a.m. and two statewide drills at 1:45 p.m. and 6:45 p.m. All communities will activate their warning systems and emergency sirens will sound. For more information on severe weather and for assistance in establishing an emergency preparedness kit, visit www.severeweather.state.mn.us.

HYDRANT FLUSHING TO TAKE PLACE

Residents of Arlington should be aware that People Service will be flushing water hydrants the last couple of weeks in April. 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.

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.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS STILL NEEDED

Interested in volunteering for your community? Want to be involved in the decision making process of city governance? The Mayor and City Council are still seeking interested individuals to fill open positions on the Parks and Police Committees. Interested candidates must be a resident of the City and need to fill out an "Application for an Appointment to Advisory Boards/Commissions/ Committees form. Forms can be picked up at the City Office and are also available on the City's web site.

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Jim Kreft -- Mayor
John Griep -- Council Member
Jim Pederson -- Council Member
Bob Pichelmann -- Council Member
Curt Reetz -- Council Member
Mike Vrklan -- 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.
Jeff Paine -- Maintenance 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)

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

During the last few months, many of us, as individuals and business owners, have been examining ways to cut expenditures. Officials at the City of Arlington have been similarly reviewing our municipal expenditures.

During the last six months of 2008, our City Council and staff worked diligently on developing an operating budget for 2009. Learning late last year of the high probability of state aid decreases, but unaware of the actual dollar amount, our council passed that operating budget, while fully cognizant of the necessity to amend it in 2009.

The approved 2009 operating budget outlined revenues and expenditures of \$1,687,533. Of the total revenues, \$582,459 (34%) was to be collected from taxes levied to our city properties, \$288,727 (17%) from other State Aid, \$93,925 (6%) was from miscellaneous revenue, and \$722,422 a full 43%, was to be granted by the State of Minnesota to the City of Arlington through the Local Government Aid (LGA) program. From this rudimentary revenue breakdown, the City's reliance on LGA is made clearly evident. From this outline, one can also reason that if our LGA share is decreased and the City-provided services were to remain constant, it is highly likely that the city property tax levy would rise.

Local Government Aid was initiated in the early 1970's and shortly thereafter dubbed the "Minnesota Miracle". The purpose of the program was, and still is, an admirable and rational one—to distribute State-collected taxes (in this case, particularly sales and income taxes) among municipalities in need. In ensuing decades, the program's effectiveness, especially in rural Minnesota, has been proven, but the methods of calculating need have been subject to ongoing revisions in the formulae. Criteria for determining a city's need, such as a city's percentage of pre-1940 housing and number of average annual traffic accidents, are somewhat arcane, have proven to be a boon for the City of Arlington, but a bane for other cities of equal need, such as neighboring Green Isle.

In late January we were informed by Governor Pawlenty's office of a proposed LGA decrease of \$73,540 for 2009, and \$153,565 for 2010. Although we will not know the exact amount until the State Legislature approves its biennial budget, the City Council immediately assigned our staff to prepare a revised 2009 budget to include a 5% decrease

in expenditures to offset the decrease in revenue. At the first regular City Council meeting in March, such a revised 2009 operating budget was approved. Among the cuts in expenditures are postponements and scope limitations of capital projects, funding of some regional projects, maintenance, and a portion of staff wage increases. I believe that all council and staff members would agree that although these decreases were in many respects regretful, they were also relatively unproblematic.

Unfortunately for all, budget year 2010 will test our mettle. Along with the expected, drastic cut in LGA, our debt service expenditures will peak next year. A needed street improvement project, a scheduled Fire Department truck replacement, and a planned Waste Water Treatment Plant upgrade/remodel project, could all, if approved add to the debt service expenditures for next year and beyond. Elected officials in Arlington have historically been of a fiscally conservative stock and have compiled healthy reserves that may prove helpful for short-term budget augmentation, but in order to effectively plan for multi-year budgets, we as elected officials will vigilantly examine the fiscal repercussions of all of our expenditures. Our City Administrator has already commenced 2010 budget planning, and it is our continued goal to keep our cost of living as low as possible while maintaining a high level of City-provided services.

-- Mayor Jim Kreft (jkreft@arlingtonmn.com)

LETS PUT "CLEAR WATER" IN ITS PLACE

As a homeowner or business owner, you have more control over backups and sewer overflows than you may realize. Proper home sewer connections are the single most important factor in controlling flow into the sanitary sewer network and ensuring that the system functions as it was designed. When our sanitary sewer system fails to operate adequately, as in occasional cases of extreme rainfall or extended periods of moisture, the primary culprit is "clear water". "Clear water" is ground water or rainwater that should be drained through the storm sewer system. Clear water in the sanitary sewer system adds unnecessary costs for all of us by needlessly overtaxing the wastewater treatment facility. Though many home and business owners may not be aware of it, it is illegal to divert clear water into the sanitary sewer system. Clear water enters the system in two ways: inflow and infiltration, often referred to as I&I. Inflow is excess rainwater improperly drained into the sanitary sewer system from residential and commercial buildings. Infiltration is ground water from excess rain or high

water tables that seeps into the sewer system through leaky pipes, also causing overflows. Under normal conditions, the sanitary sewer system operates smoothly and adequately. During heavy rainstorms, however, inflow and infiltration may cause sewers to back up into streets and basements. Residents can help alleviate overflow problems by ensuring that roof drains, foundation drains and basement sump pump hookups direct clear water to the storm sewer system and not the sanitary sewer line. Proper drainage systems significantly reduce the risk of basement backups in your house, as well as those of your neighbors. The clear water problem concerns everyone. The solution requires a community-wide effort. Your commitment to corrective action will protect you, your family, your neighbors and your environment. Let's all renew our commitment to clean water by putting clear water in its place. For additional information, contact the City's water and sewer operators, PeopleService, at 964-2231.