

The Arlington Report

SPRING CLEAN UP DAY IS SATURDAY, MAY 1ST 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 a cost yet to be determined. 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 (only cash/checks payable to the “City of Arlington” will be accepted - No credit cards). Electronics will not be accepted on this day, but individuals interested in disposing of electronics can contact Brian Matthew Hauer Enterprises at 320-234-3735 to see when they will be in town next. Baleable metal, scrap metal, lawn mowers and any steel may be disposed of at no charge. Disposal of used motor oil is also free of charge. **Unacceptable Items:** No yard waste or compost items, hazardous waste (paints, 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 items? Call Tri-County Solid Waste Office: 507-381-9196. Located at Blue Earth Co. Regional HHW facility, 651 Summit Avenue, Mankato.

SEVERE WEATHER AWARENESS WEEK

This year, Severe Weather Awareness Week in Minnesota is April 19 to April 23. 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 22 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 6:55 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 the MN Dept. of Public Safety website at www.severeweather.state.mn.us.

REMEMBER TO FILL OUT THE CENSUS

Last month, more than 130 million addresses should have received their 2010 Census form. The 2010 Census will document the demographic changes in our nation since the last decennial census in 2000, and tell us how we've evolved as a country. Because census data affects how more than \$400 billion in federal funding is distributed to tribal, state and local governments, the census will also frame the future of our country and our community for the next 10 years. The Census will be used to determine how much Local Government Aid the City will receive and is crucial in apportioning seats in the U.S. House of Representatives. Minnesota is one of a handful of states that are at risk of losing a Representative through redistricting. In 2000, the National response rate of the Census was 72%, with Minnesota's rate being 78%, Sibley County's rate was 82% and the City of Arlington's rate was 85%. As of March 25, 52% of Arlington residents had returned their forms. Let's work at getting that as close to 100% as possible!

HYDRANT FLUSHING TO TAKE PLACE

Residents of Arlington should be aware that People Service staff will be flushing water hydrants the weeks of April 5 through April 19. 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 these problems.

LIBRARY TO HOST NATIONAL BESTSELLERS

Meet the national bestselling authors behind the homemade bread revolution, Jeff Hertzberg, M.D. and Zoe Francois, Authors of *Healthy Bread in Five Minutes a Day*, on Sunday, April 25, free of cost at the Arlington Community Center. Jeff and Zoe have been featured on Fox 9 Morning, KARE 11 and at the MN State Fair. A soup and artisan bread supper will take place from 4:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. (free will offering for the meal), and an author's presentation will take place at 7:00p.m. For more information contact the Arlington Public Library at 964-2490, Kathy at 964-2566 or Sue at 964-2766. The event is sponsored by the Arlington Public Library, Sibley County Historical Society, and the Traverse des Sioux Library System.

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Jim Kreft -- Mayor
Jim Pederson -- Council Member
Bob Pichelmann -- Council Member
Curt Reetz -- Council Member
Mike Vrklan -- Council Member
Galen Wills -- 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)
TCW (877-685-3815)
Renville-Sibley Sanitation (866-800-6244)

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



BUILDING/ZONING PERMITS NEEDED

With the spring construction season right around the corner, ideas for home improvement projects are starting to be considered. Property owners should be aware that the City of Arlington has adopted the Minnesota State Building Code. With this adoption, property owners need to remember that a building permit is needed for most projects. Roofing, siding, decks, windows/doors, additions, basement finish, remodels, plumbing & heating are all jobs that need a permit and are to be done by a licensed contractor. Permits are not required for cosmetic improvements such as painting, carpeting, kitchen cabinets, floor covering and normal maintenance or repairs without structural changes. 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, even in these economic times, 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 carefully 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 new construction, as well as projects such as an addition, patio, deck, shed, fence or sidewalk/driveway need to have the zoning checked before any work can be done, so please allow enough time for the permit process before your intended start date for a project. 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).

LETS PUT "CLEAR WATER" IN ITS PLACE

As a home 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. Besides clear water, backups are another major factor in sanitary sewer problems. As a property owner, you can play a key role in preventing backups. To help prevent backups, property owners should dispose of the following items properly, not by dumping in a drain or flushing down the toilet: diapers; sanitary napkins; rags or shop towels; garage waste products such as oil, grease, corrosives, glass, metals, paint poisons, or solvents; yard waste such as sand, soil or mud. Sanitary sewer problems should be reported to the City. The City will work with you to identify the cause of the problem. If there is a blockage in the City's main sewer lines, the City will clear the blockage. The sewer service line from your home, business or other property to the City sewer main is your responsibility. This means that you, as the property owner, are responsible for clearing any blockages. Property owners must schedule the service and pay the costs of clearing any blockage located in the individual sewer service line on their property. For additional information, contact the City's water and sewer operators, PeopleService, at 964-2231.