

The Arlington Report

ARLINGTON NAMED "TREE CITY USA" FOR THE THIRD STRAIGHT YEAR

For the third straight year, Arlington has been named a Tree City USA community by the Arbor Day Foundation. The Tree City USA program is sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation in cooperation with the National Association of State Foresters and the USDA Forest Service. Arlington has met the four standards to become a Tree City USA community: having a tree board or department, a tree care ordinance, a comprehensive community forestry program, and an Arbor Day observance and proclamation. Communities that receive a Tree City USA recognition not only have taken the time to meet these four standards, they recognize that:

- 1) Trees promote healthier communities by filtering the air we breathe by removing dust and other particles.
- 2) Trees moderate climate, conserve water and provide habitat for wildlife.
- 3) Trees reduce the "heat island effect" in urban areas caused by pavement and buildings.
- 4) Trees can increase property values and reduce energy use and add beauty to our homes and neighborhoods.

More information about Tree City USA can be found at www.arborday.org/TreeCityUSA.

HYDRANT FLUSHING TO TAKE PLACE

Residents of Arlington should be aware that People Service staff plan to flush water hydrants the weeks of April 11 through April 30. 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.

SEVERE WEATHER AWARENESS WEEK

This year, Severe Weather Awareness Week in Minnesota is April 11 to April 15. 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 14 is Tornado Drill Day. There will be a simulated tornado watch at 1 p.m. and

two statewide drills at 1:45 pm and 6:55 pm. 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 Department of Public Safety website at www.severeweather.state.mn.us.

CITY BOARD OF APPEAL & EQUALIZATION HEARING SET FOR APRIL 12

The annual Board of Appeal and Equalization for the City of Arlington will meet, by appointment, at the Office of the Sibley County Assessor, from 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 12. The purpose of the meeting is to review and correct any aggrieved assessments (values) for Arlington property owners for the year 2011. All persons considering themselves aggrieved by said assessments, or who wish to complain that the property of another is assessed too low, are hereby notified to appear at said meeting and show cause of having such assessment corrected. The meeting will be an open-book style of meeting with any additional action taking place at the County Board of Appeal and Equalization hearing. Want to know why your house/business is valued at what it is? Want a better understanding of the valuation process? This is the meeting to attend.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS STILL NEEDED FOR CEMETERY BOARD

Interested in volunteering for your community? Want to be involved in the decision making process of city governance? The Mayor & City Council are still seeking interested individuals to fill three open positions on the Cemetery Board. 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.

CENSUS DATA SHOWS THAT POPULATION HAS INCREASED, GROWN MORE DIVERSE

Recently released census data shows that Arlington has grown since the last census in 2000. Census data shows that Arlington's population increased by 9% or by 185 people from 2,048 in 2000 to 2,233 in 2010. Total housing units also increased by 18.5% from 859 units in 2000 to 1,018 units in 2010. Unfortunately, occupied housing units decreased during the same time period from an occupancy rate of 96.4% in 2000 to 89.5% in 2010 with 107 of 1,018 units being vacant. Arlington's population has also grown more diverse since the last census. In 2000, 95% of Arlington's population was considered white; that number shrunk to 88% in 2010. The Hispanic population is second highest at 9%.

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Jim Kreft -- Mayor
Jim Pederson -- Council Member
Bob Pichelmann -- Council Member
Curt Reetz -- Council Member
Jason Ruehling -- Council Member
Galen Wills -- Council Member

APPOINTED OFFICIALS

Matt Jaunich -- City Administrator
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 -- EDA,
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)
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



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. It is very important to remember to disconnect your sump pumps from the sanitary sewer system during the spring thaw season. In recent weeks, People Service has seen a significant increase in flow at the wastewater plant. Operators believe that this increase in flow is directly related to sump pumps. 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.

THEY'RE YOUR WETLANDS AND STREAMS TO USE, BUT NOT ABUSE

It's probably not a surprise to most of you that runoff from spring rains and snowmelt will flow onto our streets and into our storm drains and drainage ditches, which eventually discharge into High Island Creek or area wetlands. On its way, it picks up sediment and anything else that will float or can be pushed by the flowing water. If not properly managed, runoff can harm the Creek and wetlands and increase flooding potential.

Residents can help maintain High Island Creek, area wetlands, and lakes and rivers downstream by what you do at your home. Stormwater runoff does not go directly to the wastewater treatment plant, but instead flows directly into High Island Creek and our area wetlands. As a property owner, there are many different ways you can help to reduce polluted runoff.

We can all help protect wetlands and streams in our community by learning about the problems that affect them and possible solutions to those problems. The following can be done to reduce polluted runoff:

- Minimize your use of pesticides, fertilizers, and de-icing materials (you can test your soil and use zero phosphate fertilizer if possible).
- Keep leaves, grass clippings, and pet waste off of the streets

and out of the storm drains, High Island Creek and area wetlands. Leaves and grass clippings may contain phosphorus; pet waste can contain harmful bacteria as well as nutrients. Use lawn mowers that chop up grass clippings and leave them on the lawn. These mulching mowers also reduce the need for fertilizers.

- Keep cars tuned up and repair leaks so they don't leave dangerous substances in driveways or on roads.
- Properly dispose of hazardous wastes - don't pour oil, pesticides, paint or other materials down a drain or throw them into the garbage.
- Wash your car on your lawn or use a commercial car wash instead of washing it in your driveway.
- Control soil erosion around your house. When left bare, soil is easily washed away with rain, carrying phosphorus with it. Plant ground cover, shrubs, and trees to control erosion and stabilize erosion prone areas.
- Pick up trash and don't litter. Huge amounts of trash and litter are washed from streets, parking lots and ditches into streams and wetlands, much of which is deliberately dumped or carelessly discarded.