

# The Arlington Report

## MAYOR AND 2 CITY COUNCIL POSITIONS UP FOR RE-ELECTION THIS FALL

Come January of 2011, the Arlington City Council could look very different. This November, the Mayor and two City Council positions will be up for re-election. The terms for Mayor Jim Kreft and council members Curt Reetz and Mike Vrklan all expire at the end of December, and no one has officially stated whether or not they will be running in this year's election. All three positions are four-year terms. Terms for council members Galen Wills, Bob Pichelmann and Jim Pederson all expire in December of 2012. Filing for the City Council and Mayor positions open at 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday, August 3. Filing closes at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 17 with candidates having until Thursday, August 19 to withdraw their name from consideration. The filing fee is \$2 and you must be a resident of Arlington to run for an elected position. This year's General Election will take place on Tuesday, November 2.

## PRIMARY ELECTION IS AUGUST 10

Primary Elections for State and Federal offices will be held at the Arlington Community Center, 204 Shamrock Drive, on Tuesday, August 10. The polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. for the purpose of nominating candidates for some of the offices which are to be voted for at the General Election. While there will be voting in Arlington, no local races will be on the primary ballot. The primary is an "election" that reduces the field of candidates within a major political party. Those nominated by the primary will represent their major political party in the general election. Although candidates of all three major parties will be on the primary ballot, you may only vote for candidates within one major party at the primary. Some non-partisan offices (judges, county and local offices) will also be on the primary ballot. Write-in votes are not allowed on the primary ballot. The differences between the primary election and the general election are in the purposes for the two events. The primary serves to allow the major political parties the opportunity to narrow the number of their candidates for a particular office to just one, who then will face the competition from the other political parties in the general election. For non-partisan positions like judgeships and some local elected positions, the primary allows voters to narrow the field for the general election. By contrast, the purpose of the general election is to choose

public officials who actually will hold particular offices. For additional information on elections, visit the Secretary of State's website at [sos.state.mn.us](http://sos.state.mn.us).

## ARLINGTON'S POPULATION DECREASES

The State Demographer's Office recently released its population estimates for 2009. Arlington's 2009 estimate came in at 2,066, down from 2,091 in 2008. The estimate is still slightly higher than the 2000 Census number of 2,048. The household estimate was listed at 876, down from 878 in 2008 and slightly higher than the 2000 Census number of 828. Population estimates are used to help calculate Local Government Aid payments to cities.

## SMC'S SUMMER ICE CREAM SOCIAL

The Sibley Medical Foundation and Auxiliary will be hosting their 3rd Annual Ice Cream Social on Wednesday, August 18 from 4-7 p.m. at **Four Seasons Park**. Music will be provided by the Minnesota Over 60 Band. Also present will be balloon artist Gary Kauffmann, a children's bounce house and wagon rides. Bring your lawn chair!

## TIPS FOR REDUCING SUMMER

### ELECTRIC COSTS

The heat of the summer produces increased electrical costs with the need to run the air conditioner. Here are a few things you can do to conserve electricity that have no out-of-pocket costs:

- Set your thermostat several degrees higher. Fans can be used to circulate cooler air.
- Enable your computer's power saving settings.
- Make sure that your air conditioner filter is not clogged. Significantly more electricity is required to push air through a dirty filter.
- Turn off lights when not in use.
- Seal off any unused sections of your house to reduce air conditioning usage.
- Plug electrical devices such as televisions and computers into a power strip that can be turned off when the devices are not in use.
- Close drapes and blinds to reduce heating from sunlight.
- Grill meals instead of using the oven or stovetop.
- Use motion-detectors or solar-powered outdoor lights
- Use a clothesline to dry your clothes when possible.

## CLARIFICATION ON STORY HOUR FUNDING

In the July "Arlington Report", it was noted that *fund-ing* for Story Hour had been eliminated by the City Council. This had left some to believe that the program itself had been eliminated. That is NOT correct. While funding has been cut, Story Hour is still taking place with Marie Kreft donating her time.

## 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](mailto:cityhall@arlingtonmn.com)



*A Beautiful City Growing in Unity*



## UPDATE ON THE "FIBER TO THE HOME" PROJECT

First off, you may ask, what is "Fiber to the Home". Fiber to the Home refers to fiber optic cable connections to individual residences and businesses. Such optics-based systems can deliver a multitude of digital information -- telephone, video, data -- more efficiently than traditional copper coaxial cable. Fiber to the Home provides for far faster connection speeds and greater carrying capacity than DSL or coaxial cable. Simply put, fiber optics is the future for telephone, internet and video data transmission.

Arlington, along with the cities of Gaylord, Gibbon, Green Isle, Henderson, New Auburn, Winthrop, and Fairfax (Renville County) are currently studying the possibility of a Fiber to the Home network throughout Sibley County. In early July, CCG Consulting was hired to conduct a feasibility study for a possible Fiber to the Home (FTTH) network for Sibley County and the City of Fairfax in Renville County. The Blandin Foundation recently awarded the project a \$40,000 matching grant to pay for the feasibility study. Sibley County Commissioners provided the match for the county and asked the scope of the feasibility study be expanded to include the option of bringing a fiber optic line to every farm site in the county. The City of Fairfax is also participating in the study.

CCG Consultants will begin calling people in Sibley County and Fairfax regarding their telecommunication needs beginning Monday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>. The phone survey is the first phase of a Fiber To The Home study that will examine the feasibility of building a fiber optics network to connect every home, business and farm in Sibley County and Fairfax with fiber optics. Most of the calls will be made in the afternoon or early evening. A few of the calls will take place in the morning. The survey will take about two weeks or until 400 people have been interviewed. Calls will only be made to residents and people living on farms in Sibley County. The businesses in the eight communities will be contacted with a separate survey by mail or email.

CCG will develop a comprehensive business plan for the project, which will also include engineering and options for operations. They are scheduled to complete the study and present their findings late this fall. As part of the feasibility study, public meetings will be held in each community beginning in August to educate people about FTTH technology as well as to make people aware of the benefits and risks of FTTH. The goal of

the feasibility study will be to determine how much the network will cost to build, and how many people will be needed to subscribe to the system to be financially viable.

FTTH technology is capable of providing very high speed symmetrical Internet, high definition cable and phone service. A host of additional applications are emerging for fiber networks, including telemedicine, home and business security and educational opportunities. CCG is recognized as an industry leader in telecommunication consulting services and has been involved in several hundred network feasibility studies. The firm recently completed studies for the Minnesota cities of Monticello, Northfield, Lakeville, and North St. Paul. They also did studies for Cook and Anoka counties. They are located in Beltsville, MD with offices in Baton Rouge, LA.

## NEW LAWS EFFECTIVE AUGUST 1, 2010

A handful of new laws passed by the 2010 legislature take effect starting August 1. A sampling of those laws and how they may affect you are as follows:

*Broadband for Everyone* -- A new law makes high-speed broadband internet for every home and business an official state goal. The law intends to provide every resident the ability to access high-speed broadband internet service by 2015. *City Employees in Leadership Positions* -- Full time, permanent employees of a city are now prohibited from serving as mayor or on the city council. *Firefighters May Collect for Charity* -- Since 2000 in Minnesota, and since 1955 in other states and Canada, firefighters have raised money for the Muscular Dystrophy Association by collecting spare change from motorists stopped at red lights. A new law gives them the green light to use the "Fill the Boot" strategy to raise funds for charity. A municipality can now permit firefighters to use this technique for up to three days a year to benefit one registered nonprofit organization qualified under section 501(c)(3). *American Legion Day* -- A new law designates September 16 as American Legion Day. September 16 commemorates the date in 1919 that Congress chartered the American Legion. *New Renter Rights* -- Renters will be guaranteed the right to purchase cable or telephone services from a provider of their own choosing under a

new law. The law prevents landlords from forbidding or discriminating against tenants for choosing one telecommunications provider over another. *Kelsey Smith Act* -- The Kelsey Smith Act now requires cell phone service providers to disclose their customers' call location in the case of an emergency situation. The law will require cell companies to reveal call location data in cases where an individual is missing and at risk of "death or serious physical harm." *Window Tinting Law Expanded* -- Anyone who sells or applies vehicle window tints that are darker than current law allows can now be found in violation of the State's "Tinted Window" law and subject to a misdemeanor charge. *Domestic Abuse Changes* -- New domestic abuse laws include pets and companion animals in protective orders, and includes expanding the area for protection for a reasonable distance around a residence or dwelling of a person seeking an ex parte order for protection. *Guns at School* -- A new law now increases the maximum penalty for knowingly possessing, storing or keeping a firearm on school grounds from two years imprisonment and a \$5,000 fine to five years imprisonment and a \$10,000 fine. For a complete summary of all laws passed during the 2010 legislative session, go to [www.house.leg.state.mn.us/](http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/).