

# The Arlington Report

## CITY COUNCIL AMENDS NUISANCE ORDINANCE

At its July 5 meeting, the City Council adopted Ordinance 259, an ordinance regulating nuisances within the City. While the City has had nuisance ordinances for years now, Ordinance 259 organizes several of the past nuisance ordinances into one. Ordinance 259 also updates previous ordinances and adds a clause to address repeat ordinance violators. The Ordinance, which became effective in mid-July, makes changes to previously established regulations. The new ordinance reduces the amount of time building materials and refuse can be on a construction site from 90 days after completion of the construction or repair to 14 days. The ordinance goes on to state that all refuse shall be removed from a premise to a proper disposal facility or recycling collection center on a regular basis, or no less often than every 14 days. The new ordinance also now states that lawn and landscaped areas are to be cut or trimmed so that grass areas do not exceed 6 inches in height. This was reduced from 12 inches as described in the previous ordinance. The ordinance also reduces the requirement for abating a problem from 15 days to 10. The most significant change in the new Ordinance deals with repeat ordinance violators. The new Ordinance now states that the City may impose a fine upon an owner and/or responsible party of private property if the City has rendered services or responded to a property on three or more occasions within a period of 365 days in response to or for the abatement of nuisances. For a full copy of the ordinance or if you have questions about the ordinance, contact city hall or visit the City's website for additional information.

## SMC's SUMMER ICE CREAM SOCIAL

The Sibley Medical Foundation and Auxiliary will be hosting their 4th Annual Ice Cream Social on Wednesday, August 17 from 4-7 p.m. at Memorial Park (in front of the Hospital). The schedule of events include kids games, bounce house, and balloon designer Gary Kaufmann at 4:00 p.m. "Stars and Moon" competition at 6:00 p.m., and local musical entertainment at 6:30 p.m. BBQ and egg salad sandwiches, potato salad, coffee and root beer floats will be served. Prizes will also be handed out at the event. Prizes include a 4-pack of tickets to see a Twins game, a 4-pack of tickets to Valley Fair, and a 4-pack of tickets to the MN Zoo. The drawing for the 8'x12' Gazebo, built and do-

nated by Haggemiller Lumber and Ray Haggemiller, will also take place on the 17th in the park. Bring your own lawn chair!

## NEW LAWS EFFECTIVE IN AUGUST

The second phase of a new set of laws passed by the 2011 Legislature are scheduled to take effect starting August 1. A sampling of those laws and how they may affect you are as follows: *Easier filing for Businesses* -- A new law will make it easier for businesses to file their records online. The new law standardizes the types of data required to be printed on certificates issues to businesses, it streamlines the filing process for business trusts and municipal power/gas agencies, and eliminates mandates requiring the use of the US Postal Service rather than electronic means to provide certain notices to businesses. *Home Repair Contractors* -- A new law was adopted to protect consumers from "fly-by-night" contractors. The law will add siding contractors as well as roofing contractors to those prohibited from offering to pay for an insured's deductible or to compensate an insured as an incentive to gain a contract. *Food Inspections* -- A new law exempts certain organizations with tax-exempt status from food regulation statutes. Faith-based groups and sportsman organizations are included in the exemption. *Sex Offenders* -- A new law authorizes a court to bar a juvenile found guilty of a sex crime from residing within 1,000 feet, or three city blocks, of the victim. *Harming Police Dogs* - A new law will increase the penalty for injuring public safety dogs and impose mandatory restitution on offenders who harm these animals. It also creates a new offense whereby it is a misdemeanor to assault a public safety dog where the animal does not suffer "demonstrable bodily harm". *Pawn Shops* -- A new law will make it easier for pawn shops to manage their inventory. The new law standardizes a 60-day maximum redemption period for a pawn transaction. It allows pawnbrokers to return, sell or remove inventory from display after the redemption period is reached, or after 31 days. For a complete summary of all laws passed during the 2011 legislative session, go to [www.house.mn/hinfo/Newlaws2011-0.asp](http://www.house.mn/hinfo/Newlaws2011-0.asp).

## SIBLEY COUNTY FAIR

The 142nd Annual Sibley County Fair will be held this August 3-7 at the fairgrounds right here in Arlington. A daily pass is \$3 with children under 12 getting in for free. Entry tickets or season passes are \$12. \$5,000 in scrip money to be given away during the fair. Drawings held promptly at 10:30 p.m. nightly, except Sunday's drawing will be held at 9 p.m. For more information, visit the Fair online at [www.sibleycountyfair.com](http://www.sibleycountyfair.com).

## **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)

## STATE SHUTDOWN ENDS; HOW THE BUDGET BILLS AFFECT ARLINGTON

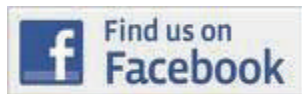
### City of Arlington, Sibley County

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*A Beautiful City Growing in Unity*



At 4 a.m. on July 20 the Minnesota Legislature finished it's work on the state budget agreement. When Governor Dayton signed the bills later that day at 9:00 a.m., the longest state shutdown in the history of the State officially came to an end. With over 1,100 pages of new laws, I'm sure most in the public have yet to dissect the affects of the recently passed bills. Below are some highlights of the bills that have some importance to the City of Arlington and its residents. For a complete copy of all 12 funding bills, visit the Legislative website at [www.house.leg.state.mn.us/ss2011](http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/ss2011).

*Omnibus Tax Bill* -- This is probably the most important bill for Arlington because it deals with Local Government Aid (LGA) and the Market Value Homestead Credit (MVHC) program. LGA in 2011 will be cut by roughly \$102 million. Basically, this number equals the amount of LGA that was distributed in 2010. For Arlington, this reduction should have no affect on the 2011 budget. While Arlington was notified that it was projected to receive an increase in LGA for 2011, city officials did not budget for the increase and left LGA numbers at 2010 amounts. MVHC was reduced by \$48 million in 2011 and beginning in 2012, the MVHC program and the associated reimbursement to local units of government for the reduction in homeowner property taxes will be eliminated. In place of the MVHC, homeowners will receive an exclusion, based on a formula, of a portion of the market value of their house from property taxes. The new market value exclusion for homes will mean that beginning in 2012, the City's tax base will likely be reduced and the tax rate will likely rise. The tax bill also now prohibits local governments from spending money to promote a local sales tax and limits spending to the costs of conducting the required referendum. The bill also included a 10% reduction in library maintenance-of-effort requirements and did not include levy limits.

*Economic Development/Housing Bill* -- This final bill included three competitive grant programs set up at DEED for business development, adult workforce development, and youth workforce development. This bill's biggest impact to Arlington residents deals with building permits. The temporary building permit surcharge fee increase of \$5 that expired on June 30 is back in effect and extended to June 30, 2013.

*Public Safety/Judiciary Bill* -- The final bill includes a \$3.7 million shift from the state's Fire Safety Account to the state's general fund, and includes a \$450,000 reduction in training reimbursement funds administrated by the Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) Board. How this directly affects Arlington is not known at this time, but the City has received funds in the past from these areas for reimbursement of costs to our fire and police departments.

*Transportation Bill* -- The new transportation bill includes a \$127 million allocation in Highway Funds for the biennium for the Better Roads Program, Governor Dayton's initiative aimed at improving existing highways determined to be in "poor" condition. Here's hoping that some of that money will go to Highway 5. The bill also includes slightly increased funding for state highways, Municipal State Aid (MSA) and County State Aid Highways (CSAH). This is good news to Arlington due to the fact that the City has two CSAH that run through city limits.

*State Government* -- The State Government Bill authorizes state agencies to waive late fees in connection with the issuance or renewal of a license, permit, or registration if the lateness was due to the state government shutdown, and it included \$322,000 in reimbursement costs to the counties for costs associated with the 2010 state gubernatorial recount. While the State has balanced their budget for the current biennium, the next budget biennium is already showing a deficit of \$1.9 million. (Source: *League of MN Cities*)

### RULES REGARDING "DOOR TO DOOR" SALESMAN

Its that time of year again when residents get to deal with the conduct of peddlers, solicitors, professional fundraisers, and transient vendors. Basically these are the technical terms for "door to door" salesman. Arlington residents should be aware that the action of any person of going in and upon private residences in the City of Arlington, by peddlers, professional fundraisers, solicitors, and transient vendors of merchandise, not having received an advance request or invitation to do so by an owner or adult occupant of a private residence, for the purpose of direct sales or soliciting orders for the sale of goods, services, wares, produce or merchandise is a nuisance and is prohibited. Residents should be clear of the fact that the City does not allow "door to door" salesmen within city limits unless they have contacted the private property owner in advance and the private property owner has agreed to meet with them. There are a couple of exemptions to the City Ordinance. The ordinance does not prohibit the distribution of informational or advertising flyers or brochures on to the doorsteps or doors of

private residences. However, when distributing informational or advertising flyers, an individual is not allowed to make face to face contact, knock/ring the door/doorbell, or attempt to physically alert the property owner of such delivery of the brochure/flyer. The ordinance also exempts individuals wishing to express their state or federal constitutional rights such as the freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom of religion and the like. This means that the City cannot prohibit individuals wishing to go door to door for religious or political purposes, including individuals going door to door for religious fundraising purposes. Also, any person making deliveries of perishable food or dairy products (i.e. Schwan's) to the customers on their established routes are exempted. Property owners are encouraged to call the Arlington Police Department or City Hall if you are confronted with a "door to door" salesman. For additional information on who is or isn't allowed to go door to door, visit the city's website (Ordinance 243) or contact city hall.