

The Arlington Report

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)

UPDATE ON "HOMETOWN WINDPOWER"

The "Hometown WindPower" program -- bringing a wind turbine to each of the 11 MMPA cities, of which Arlington is a member -- was introduced in last month's newsletter. Under the program, renewable energy (wind) is produced where it is used. At their January 22nd meeting, the Arlington City Council took its first step in preparing for wind energy by adopting Ordinance 212. Ordinance 212 regulates Wind Energy Conversion Systems (wind turbines) by establishing standards and procedures by which the installation and operation of turbines shall be governed within the City. The City is also proceeding with its next step of identifying a site for the turbine to be placed. Currently, the Council has identified two locations in the northeast section of town. Upon the selection of a location, the project will be able to begin. According to project manager Dave Boyles, an agreement has been signed to purchase turbines from enXco Services in California. They are small turbines compared to those used in wind farm projects. They are 115 feet tall from the ground to the tip of the extended blade -- shorter than most water towers. "Each turbine will produce about 160 kw of energy," Boyles said. "That's less than originally planned, but we wanted the turbines to be compact enough to fit into MMPA towns without being visually overpowering." Boyles said the MMPA communities are proceeding with the issuance of local permits to construct the turbines. This process usually requires a review by the communities planning and zoning departments followed by an assigned conditional use permit and potentially an easement for the property. Each town can use a slightly different procedure for these reviews. "Now that we have the turbines and towers ordered, we plan to schedule construction this spring and start producing power this summer in each MMPA city," Boyles said. Clean Renewable Energy Bonds -- CREBs -- will be issued to finance the projects. The timing and method for issuing the CREBs has not been finalized. Boyles said MMPA host cities have been receptive to the program. "The cities recognize that while this is small-scale production, the wind turbines are a visible indication of each community's commitment to renewable energy," Boyles said. "And in the bargain, the Hometown WindPower turbines will help us meet state mandated renewable energy standards." (Source: MMPA)

2010 U.S. CENSUS IN NEED OF WORKERS

The Census needs census takers (enumerators), data collection people, and clerks. Work schedules range from part-time to full-time and involve day hours as well as evenings and weekends when more people tend to be at home. Not everyone who is qualified will be hired. Applicants who are selected will be called when jobs become available. This will occur in waves throughout 2009 and 2010. For more information, please call 1-866-861-2010 or read all about it on the Census Bureau website at www.2010censusjobs.gov. To apply, you must have identification such as a passport, driver's license, Social Security card or certified copy of a birth certificate.

WHEN DO THEY MEET?

Are you interested in participating in public meetings, but do not know when and where they meet? If so, below is a list of meeting dates and times. All meetings are held in the council chambers at the community center unless noted. All meetings are subject to change. Please call City Hall to verify meeting times.

City Council:	1st & 3rd Mon. at 6:30 pm
Planning & Zoning:	1st Thur. at 7 pm
Hospital Board:	Last Mon. at 5 pm
Historical Society:	1st Mon. at 10 am
Police Committee:	4th Mon. at 1 pm (Tech Center)
Cemetery Comm.:	Last Wed. (Quarterly) at 8:30 am
EDA:	2nd Tues. (Quarterly) at 7 am (Tech Center)
Park Board:	3rd Wed. (Quarterly) at 7 pm
Library Board:	3rd Wed. (Quarterly) at 6:30 pm (Library)

BUILDING PERMITS ISSUED UP IN 2008

There were 153 building permits issued in 2008, up from 138 in 2007. While the number of permits was up in 2008, the value of the work being done dropped. The 153 permits issued in 2008 were at a value of \$1,398,899.73, which was 37% lower than the value (\$2,210,549.50) of permits issued in 2007. Most of the permits issued (73) in 2008 were for roofing, siding, and window projects.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

To help meter readers during this snow season, the City of Arlington is asking residents to assist the City by clearing a path to water and electric meters. Residents that have a fenced-in yard can also assist the city by making sure snow is removed from the gate to make access to the meters easier. This will help meter readers avoid walking on snow-covered landscaping and allow them to do their job more efficiently.

City Offices will be closed on Monday, February 16th for President's Day.

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



MAYOR KREFT IDENTIFIES FIVE GOALS FOR 2009

In an effort to help guide the City in 2009 and beyond, Mayor Kreft recently released his Mayoral Goals for 2009. A list of those goals and a brief summary are listed below. A complete copy of the Mayoral Goals for 2009 can be found on the City's website.

Goal 1 - Create a City Code -- A City Code is a document that is a consolidation of City Ordinances. A City Code is a tool commonly used by municipalities to provide clear, concise, and complete listings of local city laws (ordinances). It is organized logically by subject and affords easy reference for city residents, staff, and elected officials. While updating the City Charter last year, it was discovered that during the 1982 update of the Charter, the creation of a City Code was identified as a need.

Goal 2 - Complete our Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) -- Last year's Comprehensive Plan outlined many long-range projects that will enhance the City's quality of life. Some of the projects are potentially very exciting, some necessary, and most expensive. A CIP is a capital budgeting device that will help the City transform ideas outlined in our comprehensive plan into tangible reality. It will empower the City Council, staff, and committees to use multi-year budget cycles to save for projects and capital expenditures. A CIP will also enable the City to coordinate capital expenditures to ensure a consistent tax levy in years to come.

Goal 3 - Formulate a Development Plan for Sportsman's Park -- The Arlington Sportsman's Club generously donated 28 acres to the City in 2002. Since then the City has maintained the park, but a long-term plan has not been developed. During the Comprehensive Planning process, many imaginative ideas were raised for uses of the park. This year, the Park Committee will examine those and other ideas, and evaluate their viability and assess their social importance, assess their fiscal reality, and prioritize them. Upon completion, this development plan and the estimated capital expenditures can be consolidated into the Capital Improvement Plan.

Goal 4 - Develop a Main Street Vitalization Project -- Arlington residents are heirs to a beautiful, vibrant Main Street corridor. The business owners and citizens are proud of this and recognize it as an important asset. Residents of other communities have expressed their admiration of the activity and appearance of our downtown. In an effort to maintain

and enhance our downtown, the Economic Development Authority will be working with business owners, the Arlington Area Chamber of Commerce, and community leaders to develop a loan policy that recognizes the importance of any dynamic downtown and rewards efforts of business owners to retain historic architectural features and coordinates efforts for consistent and complimentary business facades.

Goal 5 - Compile a Sidewalk/Trail Action Plan -- Over the past five years, the City, with the cooperation of adjacent property owners has been rebuilding blighted sidewalks. With experience gleaned from that project and direction received from our Comprehensive Plan Task Force, it has become apparent that a thorough policy outlining existing sidewalk reconstruction is needed. Also, through our Comprehensive Planning process, the value of connectivity and contiguity in our sidewalk/trail system has been shown to be equally paramount. This year the City will endeavor to evaluate the walkability (pedestrian friendliness) of our community, consider the impact of sound pedestrian thoroughfares for healthy living, and outline action steps for future budgets.

LOCAL GROUP WORKS AT UPGRADING THE MINNESOTA PRAIRIE LINE

Back in August of 2008, a local group of citizens, business owners, and elected officials got together to discuss upgrading the Minnesota Prairie Line (MPL). The group, officially known now as the Minnesota Valley Regional Rail Coalition, meets monthly in various communities along the rail. The goal of the Coalition is to upgrade the MPL from Norwood to Hanley Falls from its current speed of 10 mph to 25 mph trains by 2011. The estimated cost of the project is \$70 million and the project would benefit shippers, producers and communities on and near the rail line. The 94 miles of railroad track passes through five counties and fifteen communities providing an important lifeline for commerce and economic opportunity. To fully realize the line's potential, the track must be upgraded to modern standards and capacities. MPL is actually owned by the taxpayers in the five counties it serves. The Minnesota Valley Regional Rail Authority, a joint powers board of five Minnesota county commissions, owns the railroad. The citizens of Carver, Sibley, Renville, Redwood, and Yellow Medicine counties have an opportunity to not only reap the economic benefits of improved rail transportation in their communi-

ties, but also benefit from the advantages of local control through public ownership. The upgrade of the rail line is essential. This upgrade project is "shovel ready" and can begin within 90 days. It will immediately employ 120+ individuals during the course of the improvements. When the rail upgrade is complete, long term job and business growth for the region is highly likely. Existing shippers will be better positioned to grow their businesses through improved freight efficiencies and new businesses will be attracted to communities that can offer competitive rail services. According to a recent Region 9 Rail Improvement Impact Study, there are more than 200 businesses along the 94-mile track that will benefit from the upgraded rail, creating an estimated 600+ new full time jobs. In addition to job creation and business expansion, the increase in rail traffic will result in savings to the State of Minnesota through reduced wear on highways and bridges as truck traffic is diverted to the railroad. The rehabilitation of the Minnesota Prairie Rail Line will play a vital role in the resurgence of Southern Minnesota's economy and the Coalition is encouraging support in this endeavor.