

The Arlington Report

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)
 TCW (877-685-3815)
 Renville-Sibley Sanitation (866-
 800-6244)

PLEASE FILL OUT THE CITY'S GARBAGE SURVEY IN YOUR UTILITY BILL!

Included with this month's utility bill is a survey dealing with the City's waste haulers. The Arlington City Council is seeking input from its residents on the current solid waste hauling system and is encouraging everyone to fill out and return the survey to city hall. Surveys can be returned with your utility bill or simply dropped off at city hall. The City Council would greatly appreciate it if all surveys could be returned by March 1st. Why the survey you may ask? The survey is a follow up to a 2010 Mayoral Goal of "Assessing the Value of Licensing One Solid Waste Carrier".

COMMITTEE MEMBERS STILL NEEDED

Interested in volunteering for your community? Want to be involved in the decision making process of city governance? The Mayor and City Council are still seeking interested individuals to fill open positions on the Cemetery Committee. Three vacancies remain on the committee. 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.

BUILDING PERMITS DOWN IN 2010

There were 126 building permits issued in 2010, down from 143 in 2009. Along with the number of permits decreasing in 2009, the value of the work being done also dropped. The 126 permits issued in 2010 were at a value of \$1,078,943.40, which was 12% lower than the value of permits issued in 2009. Most of the permits issued (48) in 2010 were for plumbing and mechanical projects.

CITY ADDS EDA DIRECTOR TITLE TO PLANNING AND ZONING CONSULTANT

In late December, for budgetary and restructuring purposes, the City Council eliminated the part-time EDA Director position held by Denny Schultz. In an effort to fill the vacancy of an EDA Director, the City Council hired Cynthia Smith-Strack of Municipal Development Group, Inc., the current planning and zoning administrator, to be the City's economic development director. Along with seeking inquires on planning and zoning related services, residents and business owners interested in economic development activities and programs should be in contact with Cynthia. Cynthia's office hours are Tuesdays from 9 a.m. to Noon and Thursdays from Noon to 3 p.m.

SEWER BASE RATE INCREASE LEFT OUT OF LAST MONTH'S NEWSLETTER

It was noted in last month's newsletter that user rates will be increasing for the water, sewer and electric utilities. What was left out was the fact that sewer base rates are also being increased by \$5 a month to help pay for the required upgrade of the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Residents should notice the increase in this month's utility bill. The upgrade is estimated to cost \$3,750,000. When complete, the upgrade will have a monthly base rate impact of about \$17. This is year one of a likely three-year plan of base rate increases to get to the projected increase of \$17/month. The \$5 increase in this year's base rates, on top of the user rate increases will, depending on the amount of water and electric usage, will result in a monthly average increase in your utility bill of about \$7.

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 (SMC)
Historical Society:	1st Mon. at 10 am
Cemetery Comm.:	Last Wed. (Quarterly) at 8:30 am
Park Board:	3rd Wed. (Quarterly) at 7 pm
Library Board:	3rd Wed. (Quarterly) at 6:30 pm (Library)
Police Committee:	4th Mon. at 1 pm (Tech Center)
EDA:	4th Tue. at 6:00 p.m.

CITY ASKING FOR HELP WITH SNOW

The City of Arlington and the Arlington Fire Department wants to remind everyone that if there is a fire hydrant on or near your property, please take a few moments and shovel the snow away. Clearing the snow away from a hydrant increases its visibility and can save precious time when fire fighters need to hook up to the hydrant in an emergency. The City is also asking residents to help prevent street flooding and icing by clearing snow away from storm sewer catch basins. When the weather turns warmer and snow begins to melt, it's important that the runoff water is able to get into the storm sewer. If the catch basin is covered by a build-up of snow and ice, street flooding can occur. Should the thermometer dip after melting takes place, a street can become an ice rink.

City Offices will be closed on Monday, February 21 for the President's Day Holiday.

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 2011

In an effort to help guide the City in 2011 and beyond, Mayor Kreft recently released his Mayoral Goals for 2011. The "releasing" of goals has become an annual event for Arlington Mayors. Mayor Kreft released his goals at the City's Annual Meeting in early January. A list of those goals and a brief summary are listed below.

Goal 1 - Evaluate the condition and use of our municipal buildings -- The City of Arlington has numerous locations of staff offices, meeting spaces, and storage facilities. Our staff department heads and City Council will review the current use, space needed, physical condition, and future possibilities of these venues. With this review, we hope to identify areas to increase efficiency and effectiveness of city services, realize possible cost savings, and recognize future needs.

Goal 2 - Attain "Minnesota GreenStep City" recognition -- A coalition of state agencies and private non-profit groups collaborated to create the Minnesota GreenStep Cities program. The program supports and recognizes implementation of 28 sustainable best practices that focus on cost savings and energy use reductions. The scope of the practices can range from land use to economic development, and environmental management to transportation. One area on which we will be focusing specifically is efficient stormwater management. In an effort to build an alliance and work toward the common goal of protecting our local watershed, we will team with the High Island Creek Watershed board to more effectively manage our stormwater volume.

Goal 3 - Co-ordinate the railroad/street intersection up-grades and create a reuse concept plan for our downtown railroad corridor -- This summer, the segment of the Minnesota Prairie Line Railroad running through Arlington will be upgraded to a 25 mph track. With the upgrade, drop arm signals will be added on Main Street and Adams Street, and it is important for our city to continue to work with the Minnesota Valley Regional Rail Authority, Minnesota Department of Transportation, and Sibley County to ensure that our concerns are heard. Historically, industrial businesses have been adjacent to the railroad in our downtown. Those businesses have either out-grown their downtown facilities or their need for rail access is obsolete. We will examine options for reuse of this corridor and consider opportunities for its redevelopment.

Goal 4 - Construct the in-town portion of the Prairie Line Trail -- In early 2010 the Prairie Line Trail Organization and Sibley County were awarded a federal grant for construction of a pedestrian trail connecting the City of Arlington with the Arlington Sportsman's Park. The project requires a 20% local match, and work done within our city limits, at our expense, counts toward that local match. Although the rural segment will not be constructed until 2013 or 2014, Tax Increment Financing funds allocated for the in-town segment must be used this calendar year. Our park committee has recently proposed, and will continue to tweak the location, size of, type, and the in-town trails with intentions of their construction this summer.

Goal 5 - Explore an affiliation of Sibley Medical Center and Ridgeview Medical Center -- This year, we will celebrate the 63rd anniversary of the construction of the Arlington Hospital; since, a steady evolution of the facility and the organization has continued. In the 1960s, a clinic was added, along with satellites in neighboring cities. In the 2000s, a major addition and remodeling project was under taken, and the facilities were reorganized and rechristened Sibley Medical Center. Industry wide, the trend for health care facilities is one of true cooperation, and our medical center must embrace this trend. Recently, Sibley Medical Center (SMC) and the City of Arlington have initiated a relationship with Ridgeview Medical Center (RMC). The City has contracted with RMC for paramedic services to augment our ambulance service, and SMC has contracted for administrative support. Further evolution of these relationships could manifest itself in a formal affiliation of the two medical centers. Our City Council and the SMC Board of Directors will weigh all options with the best interest of our residents' health being the paramount concern.

-- Mayor Jim Kreft (jkreft@arlingtonmn.com)

WINTER ENERGY SAVING TIPS

Purchase an efficient heating system. If you're thinking about purchasing a new heating system, look for ENERGY STAR models. These are the most energy-efficient models on the market, and they can save you energy and money. **Distribute the heat evenly.** Ceiling fans set at a slow speed push warm air away from the ceiling and move it around the room without creating a chilling breeze. This spreads the heat more evenly and will make you feel more comfortable. **Tune up your heating system.** Have your heating system tuned and inspected by a service professional. Losses from a poorly-maintained system accumulate over time, sometimes at a rate of 1% to 2% each year. **Insulate properly.** Make sure your walls and attic are properly insulated. Adding fiberglass insulation in your attic is one of the most cost-effective savings measures and one that you can do yourself. **Seal leaks.** Leaks develop in all air ducts over time. Sealing leaks in ducts can reduce heating costs by up to 20%. **Lower your thermostat.** Lowering the thermostat by as little as 1 degree F typically reduces your heating bill by 1% to 3%. Most energy experts recom-

mend setting the thermostat to 68 degrees F or less, and several degrees cooler overnight. Lower the heat when you are gone for a long period of time. It takes less energy to heat the house up when your return than to keep it heated while you're away. **Conserve with a programmable thermostat.** A programmable thermostat lets you easily lower the temp overnight or when no one is home, and can be set to automatically warm back up for active times in the household. **Use the sun's heat.** Keep drapes and shades on the south facing windows open during the day to allow the sunlight to enter, and closed at night to reduce the chill you may feel from cold windows. **Clean and keep them clear.** Clean warm-air registers, baseboard heaters and radiators as needed. Make sure they are not blocked by any furniture, carpeting or drapes. **Caulk.** Caulk windows and doors to prevent drafts. **Insulate outlets.** Electrical outlets let cold air into the house. Remove the outlet covers and insert special insulation underneath. Use special insulating plugs in all outlets that are not being used.