

# 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. Asst.  
 Jennifer Strack -- Community Center Coordinator  
 Dan Thomes -- Streets/Parks Supt.  
 Jeff Paine -- Maintenance Worker  
 Bruce Rovinsky -- Chief of Police  
 Scott Bennett -- Police Officer  
 John Zaske -- Fire Chief  
 Kevin Sullivan -- Amb. Director

## CONTRACTED SERVICES

Ross Arneson -- City Attorney  
 Cynthia Smith-Strack -- EDA,  
 Planning & Zoning Consultant  
 Darin Haslip -- Building Inspector  
 PeopleService -- 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 COUNCIL RESTRICTS TRUCK PARKING ON HIGHWAY 5

At its January 3 meeting, the City Council adopted Ordinance 268, an ordinance regulating truck parking on Highway 5. The ordinance reads that truck parking along Highway 5 within city limits will be limited to no parking for over one hour. The ordinance goes on to define truck parking as a motor vehicle that has a gross vehicle weight of more than 26,000 pounds, or has a towed unit with gross vehicle weight of more than 10,000 pounds and the combination of vehicles has a combined gross vehicle weight of more than 26,000 pounds. The ordinance makes an exception for trucks parked temporarily along Highway 5 in excess of one hour during any business day for the purpose of loading or unloading where access to the premises is not available. It is the responsibility of the Arlington Police Department to enforce the ordinance and a violation of the ordinance is a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine and penalties as set forth by the State. For a full copy of the ordinance or if you have any questions about the ordinance, contact city hall or visit the City's website for additional information.

## 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 and Parks Committees. Five vacancies remain on the Cemetery Committee and two remain on the Parks 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 ISSUED REMAIN STEADY IN 2011

There were 126 building permits issued in 2011, the same as in 2010. While the number of permits remained the same in 2010, the value of the work being done dropped. The 126 permits issued in 2011 were at a value of \$903,244.89, which was 16% lower than the value of permits issued in 2010. Most of the permits issued (50) in 2011 were for roofing/siding/window projects. 2011 represents the fourth straight year the value of the work performed decreased.

## CITY ASKS FOR HELP WHEN PLACING GARBAGE CANS FOR PICKUP

The winter months are always busy for street maintenance, in particular, snow plowing. Because of this, City staff would like to remind residents that garbage cans should not be placed out in the street. Garbage cans collected at the street, should be placed in your driveway or within the boulevard area if allowed by your garbage hauler. If the hauler will not allow you to do this, the City asks that you remove your garbage can from the street as soon as possible. This assists the City in snow plowing and other maintenance efforts, and eliminates an obstacle for drivers. Thank you for your cooperation in this effort!

## 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:	4th Mon. at 7 pm
Library Board:	3rd Wed. (Quarterly) at 6:30 pm (Library)
EDA:	4th Tue. at 6:00 p.m.

## SPECIAL PROPERTY TAX REFUND MAY BE AVAILABLE

Did you know that you may qualify for a special property tax refund that you may not have in years past? With the change in the market value homestead credit program enacted by last year's legislature, came a change in market values and an increase in property taxes for some homeowners. For those property owners that had an increase, there is a special property tax refund that you may use to offset your increase. To qualify for the special property tax refund, you must have owned and lived in the same home on both January 2, 2011 and January 2, 2012; the net property tax on your homestead increased by more than 12% from 2011 to 2012; and the increase is \$100 or more and is not attributable to new improvements. There is no limit on household income for the special property tax refund. The maximum special refund one can receive is \$1,000. Remember to ask your tax preparer about this special refund before filing.

**City Offices will be closed on Monday, February 20 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](mailto:cityhall@arlingtonmn.com)  
Website: [www.arlingtonmn.com](http://www.arlingtonmn.com)



*A Beautiful City Growing in Unity*



## MAYOR KREFT IDENTIFIES FIVE GOALS FOR 2012

In an effort to help guide the City in 2012 and beyond, Mayor Kreft recently released his Mayoral Goals for 2012. 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 brief summary are listed below.

**Goal 1 - Explore future uses for the downtown rail corridor** -- Over the past five years, the staple industrial businesses along our downtown railroad corridor have relocated, downsized, or their need for rail access is now obsolete. This year, our Economic Development Authority will explore alternative uses for, and examine possible incentive programs to redevelop these properties. The EDA will work with current property owners to evaluate optional, possibly more efficient locations for their operations within city limits. The upgrade of the Minnesota Prairie Line Railroad to a 25 mph track and the construction of drop arm signals on Main and Adams Streets, now scheduled for this calendar year, will have a profound effect on the direction considered by our EDA.

**Goal 2 - Create an Urban Reserve Zoning District** -- Our Orderly Annexation Agreement created by our City Council, Arlington Township, and Sibley County in 1996 provides for the City to exercise zoning control within the Orderly Annexation Area--property that was identified by those entities to eventually be a part of city limits, and urban in nature. We will engage the property owners within the Orderly Annexation Area, and Arlington Township representatives to develop the Urban Reserve Zoning District criteria and character.

**Goal 3 - Aggressively pursue an affiliation for Sibley Medical Center** -- A city goal for 2011 was to explore an affiliation for SMC with another medical center. After the arrival of Todd Sandberg as SMC Administrator, the Board of Directors undertook the development of a strategic plan. One of the clear initiatives reiterated in that plan is to affiliate with another medical center. The decision is a weighty one; one that will require the Board of Directors to not only examine needs and identify areas of potential growth, but how and with whom those needs and areas can best be addressed. The Board of Directors with the City Council will examine the current organizational/ownership structure of SMC and determine if it fits the model for a potential affiliation.

**Goal 4 - Take the lead in creating a model for shared services** -- Over the past years it has become obvious to city leaders of Arlington and other Sibley County cities that we must cooperate more in efforts to maintain and enhance services and realize cost savings. Even though we as leaders have recognized this need, we have not yet created a model for doing so. We have initiated preliminary discussions with leaders from Green Isle and Gaylord, and in the coming months we will begin to share ideas. Our City Council has directed our City Administrator to serve as a facilitator/organizer for these meetings and discussions. Exploration of opportunities for cooperation in areas of summer recreation programs, emergency services, and public works equipment are areas that show potential.

**Goal 5 - Determine long range plan for use and reuse of municipal buildings** -- In 2011 our staff department heads and City Council evaluated the condition and uses of city offices, meeting spaces, and storage facilities, and found deficiencies in some of them. With those evaluations to guide us, and with the goal of increased efficiency and effectiveness of city services, we will create a multi-year plan for our buildings that may involve renovation and/or reuse of space as well as relocation of city staff and departments. During the creation of the plan, we will estimate and compare relocation costs, evaluate impact operation and maintenance expenses, and consider impacts of affected city services.

-- Mayor Jim Kreft ([jkreft@arlingtonmn.com](mailto:jkreft@arlingtonmn.com))

## ELECTRICAL METER REPLACEMENT PROGRAM UNDERWAY

Most of the City's commercial meters have been tested and faulty meters have been or will be replaced shortly. The replacement of residential meters will begin in February and should last into early spring/summer. Residents should be aware of the fact that the new meters could result in higher electric bills due to a more accurate reading. The new digital meters will show exact numbers and are more accurate than the old mechanical ones with spinning dials. Because of this, property owners should be prepared for the bills to fluctuate a little month to month. The older meters have a tendency to slow down over time and the newer meters will have a much greater degree of accuracy. Some residents may see an increase of 20-30 percent or more due to the more accurate reading meters.

The purpose behind the City doing the electrical meter upgrade is to ensure accurate measurement of electrical usage. Most meters

have a lifespan of 20-25 years and can slow down or stop as they age. The new meters will be fitted with a radio device that will allow utility workers to get meter readings using walk-by or drive-by reading technology. The new meters will allow for a more speedier and accurate way to measure electrical consumption. The City has hired Chapman Metering of Avoca, Iowa to perform the meter change outs. Chapman will be assisted by McLeod Coop Power as needed. Residents are encourage to assist Chapman Metering and McLeod Power in all ways possible with the change out process.

The change out of electrical meters will coincide with the current schedule the City has been on, which began in 2005, to eventually change out all water meters to the current technology of automated meter reading. The City hopes to have all water and electrical meters updated to current technology by 2015.