

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)

GOVERNOR ANNOUNCES STATE BUDGET CUTS -- LGA LESS THAN EXPECTED

Governor Pawlenty announced on June 16th his plans to eliminate the \$2.7 billion state budget deficit left by this past years legislature. Included in his plans are \$64.2 million in cuts to local government aid (LGA) and market value homestead credit (MVHC) reimbursement for cities in 2009, and \$128.3 million in 2010 cuts. The overall cuts to local government aid will result in a direct cut to the City of Arlington in the amount of \$154,857; \$46,156 this year and \$108,701 in 2010. These cuts come on top of cuts in the amount of \$56,348 to the City in December of 2008. The 2009 cut computes to 3.31% of Arlington's tax levy plus state aid. For 2010, the cut computes to 7.64%. On a more personal level, the cuts are equal to \$22 per person in 2009 or \$55 per person in 2010. While the cuts do not come as a surprise, the City is relieved that the cuts are not as severe as the one recommended by the Governor back in January. At that time, LGA and MVHC reimbursements were recommended to have a cut of \$99.6 million in 2009 and \$185.8 million in 2010. The January proposal would have resulted in a direct cut to the City of \$227,105; \$73,540 in 2009 and \$153,565 in 2010. The Arlington City council amended its budget in March of this past year to account for the proposed budget cuts in this year's budget. The City Council will consider a tax levy increase and/or budget reductions to offset the 2010 reduction in the upcoming months. City staff will begin working on the 2010 budget in July with a preliminary tax levy being set in early September.

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 a clothesline to dry your clothes when possible.

RESIDENTS ARE REMINDED TO GET BUILDING PERMITS

City Staff wants to remind residents that building permits are needed for most construction projects, including patios, sidewalks and driveways. Recently, the City has dealt with a rash of projects being initiated without the property owner obtaining a permit. Permits are not required for cosmetic improvements such as painting, carpeting, kitchen cabinets, floor covering and normal maintenance or repairs without structural changes. However, roofing, siding, decks, windows, additions, electrical (State Inspector), plumbing, heating & cooling, and remodeling of any kind are all projects that require a permit. At the very least, land use permits are needed for patios and driveways along with sidewalks constructed in the public right-of-way. Questions regarding whether you need a permit or a licensed contractor, should be directed to the City's Building Inspector and/or Zoning Administrator. For more information on the State Building Code, or for more information on what is required of your construction project or contractor, contact City Hall. Also, please remember that projects still need to have the zoning checked before any work can be done. Zoning does not need to be checked for normal maintenance and repairs, or for roofing, siding, windows, electrical, plumbing and heating work. City zoning and building laws can be reviewed at City Hall or at the City's web site. The City's building inspector is Darin Haslip of 101 Development Resources, Inc. (507-351-4599 or 507-642-3816) and the zoning administrator is Cynthia Smith-Strack of MDG (contact city offices).

CIRCUS COMING TO TOWN

The Arlington Area Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring the upcoming Culpepper & Merriweather Circus. The Circus will be in town on Wednesday, July 8th at the Sibley County Fairgrounds. Show times are at 5:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$6 for children if purchased in advance. \$11 and \$7 the day of the event. Tickets can be purchased in advance at Liberty Station, Arlington State Bank, YNOT Plumbing, Arlington Animal Clinic, Arlington Enterprise, and Cenex-Arlington. For additional information, visit www.cmcircus.com.

City Offices will be closed on Friday, July 3rd in observance of the Independence 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



OUTDOOR WARNING SIRENS

With the severe weather season upon us, City Staff from time to time receive phone calls from residents questioning why they can't hear the outdoor warning sirens in their home. This question always arises during the severe weather season in Minnesota. After the recent tornado in Austin, residents are becoming more aware of how to protect their families from these deadly natural disasters. Awareness of the sirens and what they mean is a critical piece to gaining knowledge of the emergency incident.

So what do the outdoor warning sirens mean? There are a couple of misconceptions when it comes to outdoor sirens. One misconception is that the sirens are meant to notify residents both in their homes and outside of their homes. The truth is that outdoor warning sirens are only meant to alert persons outside of potential danger where people may not have access to media outlets such as TV, radio and NOAA weather radios. Sirens can penetrate buildings close to the siren units, but this is not the goal. DO NOT rely on indoor warning from outdoor warning sirens. Newer structures are insulated better and are more likely to keep sound out. The sirens cannot be made louder to penetrate buildings because doing so would pose a danger to the hearing of people who are outdoors. Upon hearing the siren, citizens should immediately seek shelter and tune in to a local radio or television station for information concerning the siren activation. The City's outdoor warning system is not intended to be the only means of emergency warning. For a well balanced system, the use of indoor systems are also necessary. Weather radios are the best warning system for residents indoors and for storms occurring late at night when most people are in their homes sleeping. NOAA weather radios can be purchased at most electronics stores. For more information on weather radios go to: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr/nwrrcvr.htm>.

Another misconception is that the outdoor warning sirens are meant to notify residents of severe storms only. Residents should not assume that sirens are only for weather events. They may be sounded for hazardous material or chemical spills and other non-weather incidents (like a nuclear power plant incident) where the public needs rapid notification. Another reason to listen to local radio and television stations.

A third misconception is that the sirens are sounded for an "All Clear" signal.

Arlington does not sound an "All Clear" signal. This announcement is made only over radio or TV. If you hear a siren sound again, it means that it is not safe and you should not leave your home.

A fourth misconception is that the City of Arlington sets off the sirens in Arlington. The Sibley County Sheriff's Department has the responsibility to sound all sirens in the City of Arlington, with the Arlington Fire Department being a back up to set the sirens off. In Arlington, sirens are not sounded for all severe weather warnings that are issued. Sirens are generally sounded for storms that have rotation, tornadoes, or straight line winds that may have a history of producing damage. Testing of these sirens are done the first Wednesday of the month. The City has a total of four emergency warning sirens within the City located at 7th Ave. NW & Main St., behind the Fire Department, Mary Drive & Shamrock Drive, and Baker Street & 4th Ave. SE.

When it comes to warning systems, residents should remember that outdoor warning sirens are a one way medium; they can only tell you something is wrong, not what is wrong and what action you need to take; you must obtain that information from other sources. If you see severe weather, you are encouraged to contact your local law enforcement agency, fire department, or the Sibley County Sheriff's Department via the toll-free number at 1-888-880-4567. For additional information on outdoor warning sirens, contact City Offices at 964-2378.

RULES REGARDING "DOOR TO DOOR" SALESMAN

The City Council recently updated its ordinance (243) relating to 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 aware 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 flyer/brochure. 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 and dairy products (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 Ordinance 243 and who is or isn't allowed to go door to door, visit the city's website or contact city hall.