

# The Arlington Report

## ELECTED OFFICIALS

Jim Kreft -- Mayor  
 Jim Pederson -- Council Member  
 Bob Pichelmann -- Council Member  
 Curt Reetz -- Council Member  
 Mike Vrklan -- Council Member  
 Galen Wills -- 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)  
 TCW (877-685-3815)  
 Renville-Sibley Sanitation (866-800-6244)

## CITY COUNCIL AMENDS BUDGET TO DEAL WITH FURTHER STATE AID CUTS

As mentioned in last month's *Arlington Report*, the City received an additional \$50,961 in State Aid cuts for 2010. The City recently addressed those cuts by amending its 2010 budget. Here is a list of some of the items the Council modified to help balance the 2010 budget.

-- The City's contribution to the Sibley East Pool has been completely eliminated. This amount is equivalent to \$20,000 from 2009's budget, which means that we will no longer be supporting operations of the pool.

-- Due to sufficient coverage, the damaged emergency siren at Mary Drive and Shamrock Drive will not be replaced, saving the City \$5,000.

-- The City reduced the amount of streets to be seal coated and the amount of sidewalks to be replaced, saving the City \$19,000.

-- The City's funding of Story Hour has been eliminated, saving the City \$700.

-- Summer lawn mowing hours have been reduced from 40 hours a week to 32 hours a week. This will save the City about \$2,000, but will make it more difficult for the City to address nuisance properties when necessary.

-- The City had budgeted for an additional 8 hours of the library being open per week. Those 8 hours were not granted saving the City \$1,500. Additional cuts and fund adjustments were used to offset the remaining State Aid cuts.

## NEW BUILDING AND YARD STANDARDS ADOPTED

The Arlington City Council recently adopted Ordinance 250, which relates to general building and yard standards within the City. The purpose of the ordinance is to protect and preserve property values and the City's tax base, and to establish reasonable standards for functional and aesthetic aspects of buildings and structures. Under Ordinance 250, single family attached and detached residential units constructed or moved into the City shall have the following four design standards: 1) The units shall be compatible to other units within the area in terms of structure size, massing, bulk, and quality of architectural materials. 2) Exterior walls should be similar in appearance to normal wood, vinyl or metal lapsing, cement board, or masonry residential construction. Surfaces made of sheet or corrugated aluminum or unfinished metal such as tin are prohibited. 3) Roofs should

have at least a 4:12 pitch and should be covered with shingles, tiles, or a concealed-fastener metal roof, unless a Conditional Use Permit is issued. 4) Total square footage of an attached garage should not exceed 60% of the foundation size of the unit to which it is attached unless a Conditional Use Permit is issued. A complete copy of the ordinance can be read online or reviewed at City Hall.

## A 2008 STATE LAW INCREASES BUILDING PERMIT FEES FOR ONE YEAR

A law passed in 2008 will be having an effect on city building permits starting in July. Effective July 1, 2010, the State of Minnesota will be increasing their surcharge fee on all fixed building permit fees to \$5. This surcharge fee will be in place for one year and will affect permits relating to reroofs, residing, windows/doors, and the like. This will increase fixed permit fees in Arlington from \$25.50 to \$30.

## NEW LAWS EFFECTIVE IN JULY

A handful of new laws passed by the 2010 Legislature take effect starting July 1. A sampling of those laws and how they may affect you are as follows: *Budget Balanced* -- The only law passed during the Legislature's brief 2010 special session balances the State's budget. The law erases a projected \$3 billion shortfall through spending cuts and payment delays. *Veterans of Foreign Wars Day* -- A new law designates May 28 as "Veterans of Foreign Wars Day" in Minnesota. The VFW was founded on that same day in 1899 and was federally chartered by Congress on May 28, 1936. *Body Art Licensure* -- A new law sets licensing standards for people who work with body art (tattoos and piercings), and the establishments where they work will now need to be licensed by the Department of Health. The law also states that tattoos may not be provided to anyone under the age of 18, regardless of parental consent. *Predatory Offender Registration* -- A new law prohibits predatory sex offenders from listing homeless shelters as their primary or secondary address. If an offender registers as homeless, they are required to check in weekly with local law enforcement, which previously was not required. *Who Can Draw Blood for DWI* -- A new law, in an effort to expedite the process for police and the courts, allows medical personnel trained in a licensed hospital or educational institution to withdraw blood to determine the presence of alcohol, controlled substances or hazardous substances. For a complete summary of all laws passed during the 2010 session, go to [www.house.leg.state.mn.us/](http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/). **City Offices will be closed on Monday, July 5 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](mailto: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 Wadena, 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 for more details.

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 three emergency warning sirens within the City located at 7th Ave. NW & Main St., behind the Fire Department, and Baker Street & 4th Ave. SE. A fourth siren at Mary Drive & Shamrock Drive has been deemed unnecessary and is being decommissioned.

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 or 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

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 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 exemptions 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.