

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)
 Renville-Sibley Sanitation (866-
 800-6244)

REMINDER ON THE RENVILLE-SIBLEY FIBER PROJECT MAILING

Towards the end of May you should have received a package in the mail regarding the Renville-Sibley Fiber project. The main purpose of the mailing was informational, intended to gain your interest in the project. You were encouraged to read through the material. In the material was a yellow card in which you were asked to select the services you would be interested in receiving and return it to Renville-Sibley Fiber in the prepaid envelope. If you have not filled out the yellow card and returned it, this is a reminder to please do so. Just a reminder that filling out and signing the form does not obligate you to anything, it simply provides a level of interest on the proposed project and will assist the Joint Powers Board on its "next steps". Visit www.rsfiber.com for more information.

CHECK US OUT ON FACEBOOK!

In an effort to reach more of the community and to provide up to the minute updates, the City has established a "Facebook" account. To follow the City, look for the "City of Arlington, Minnesota" and click the "like" button. Please note the City's social media policy before posting comments.

CITY ADOPTS ORDINANCE DEALING WITH STORMWATER

At its June 20 council meeting, the City Council adopted Ordinance 258, an ordinance regulating and managing storm water within the City. The ordinance was put together by the planning commission with help from the City Engineer and the High Island Creek Watershed District. The purpose of the ordinance is to control, reduce, and to the extent possible, eliminate storm water pollution along with soil erosion and sedimentation, which in turn should help to preserve natural resources within the City of Arlington from undesirable impacts related to development or other activities. The ordinance establishes standards and specifications for conservation practices and planning activities, which minimize storm water pollution, soil erosion, and sedimentation. The ordinance is important for residents due to the fact that a permit may now be required for certain "land disturbing activities". Minor disturbances like landscaping, planting a garden, or repairs will not need a permit, but larger jobs may. Contact the city's planning and zoning administrator if you have any questions or concerns. For a full copy of the ordinance, contact city hall or visit the City's website.

NEW LAWS EFFECTIVE IN JULY

While the Governor and State Legislature may have some issues in adopting a state budget, they did find some time to pass a handful of new laws that take effect starting July 1. A summary of those laws and how they may affect you are as follows: *Final Ethanol Payments* -- If you are a corn farmer, according to a new law, more than \$13.7 million in expected final ethanol producer payments will be distributed over the next year, ending a 1980s program to incentivize farmers to grow corn for bio-fuel. While the law eliminates ethanol payments, the omnibus agriculture and rural development finance law provides grant programs to develop and market locally grown products for retail sale. Annual cost share payments will also be available to those who seek certification status as an organic farmer. *School Bus Changes* -- A new law will make it easier for students who attend area learning centers and those requiring lift buses on field trips to get to school or participate in activities. *State Trail Passes* -- A new law states that a new state trail pass will be required for non-residents who want to ride off-road vehicles on state trails. The annual \$20 pass must be visible while riding. Also, as of July 1, children ages 12-17 can operate a Class 1 ATV, but any single passenger must be the child's parent or legal guardian. *Synthetic Marijuana Banned* -- It is now a gross misdemeanor to sell synthetic marijuana and a person in possession of such a substance will be guilty of a misdemeanor. *Ignition Interlock Required* -- Under a new law, repeat DWI offenders and first-time offenders whose alcohol concentration is at least double the legal limit will have to use an ignition interlock device to drive legally in the state.

For a complete summary of all laws passed during the 2011 session, go to www.house.leg.state.mn.us/.

REMINDER TO PROPERTY OWNERS ON LONG GRASS

City Staff would like to remind property owners that City Ordinance 195 states that any noxious weed or excessive growth of weeds and grasses measuring 12 inches or more in height is considered a public nuisance and is prohibited. With the mowing season upon us, city staff is receiving more and more complaints on lawns not being properly kept. While the City does its best to identify these lawns, most properties that are in violation of Ordinance 195 are identified by public complaints. Property owners wishing to file a complaint against a property should do so in writing. **City Offices will be closed on Monday, July 4 in observance of the Independence Day Holiday.**

OUTDOOR WARNING SIRENS

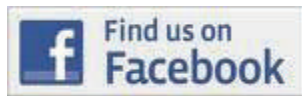
City of Arlington, Sibley County

Contact us at:
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Web site: www.arlingtonmn.com



A Beautiful City Growing in Unity



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 recent tornado breakouts throughout the US, 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 of potential danger who are outside and 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/nwrrevr.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.

Arlington does not sound an "All Clear" signal. This announcement is made only over radio or TV. So if you hear a siren sound again, it means that it is still 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 off in the City of Arlington, with the Arlington Fire Department being a back up. 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 each 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.

TIPS FOR REDUCING SUMMER ELECTRIC COSTS

The heat of the summer produces increased electrical costs with the need to run air conditioners. Here are a few things you can do to conserve electricity that have minimal to 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.
- Unplug appliances such as computers and monitors, coffee makers, toasters, etc. when not in use. Believe it or not, appliances continue to draw a small amount of power when they are switched off. (According to the Department of Energy, a large share of the electricity used in the average home to power home electronics is consumed while the products are turned off!)
- Turn off fans and lights in unoccupied rooms.
- Seal off any unused sections of your house and properly insulate your home to reduce air conditioning usage.
- Close drapes and blinds during the day to reduce heating from sunlight.
- Plug electrical devices such as televisions and computers into a power strip that can be turned off when the devices are not in use.
- Grill meals instead of using the oven or stovetop.
- Use motion-detectors or solar-powered outdoor lights.
- Use a clothesline to dry your clothes when possible.
- When it is time to replace your incandescent light bulb, switch to energy saving compact fluorescent bulbs. CFL's use only one-fourth the energy and last up to 10 times longer.
- Run the dishwasher, washing machine and dryer with full loads and you'll use less electricity and less hot water. Water heating can account for 14-25% of home energy use.