

The Arlington Report

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Jim Kreft -- Mayor
Curt Reetz -- Council Member
Mike Vrklan -- Council Member
Galen Wills -- Council Member
John Griep -- Council Member
Gregg Borchert -- 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.
Keith Doetkott -- Maint. 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)

ARLINGTON TOWN & COUNTRY DAYS IS FRIDAY & SATURDAY JUNE 13th & 14th

Friday, June 6th

Queen Coronation - 7:00 p.m. Community Center

Friday, June 13th

Breakfast on the Farm

Mueller Elginvue Farm 6:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

Saturday, June 14th

Fun Run - Kid's Race - Adult Race

8:30 a.m. 4 mile run

8:35 a.m. 5K walk

9:45 a.m. Kid's Fun Run

Registration starting at 8:00 a.m.

Kickball Tournament

Registration starting at 8:00 a.m.

Call Steph Schultz 320-420-6666

Karate Demonstration with Mr. Don Temte

11:00 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.

4th Annual Mike Haggemiller Memorial Motorcycle Run

Registration from 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Departure from Arlington - 11:30 a.m.

Car & Tractor Show

Registration from 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Showing 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Prairie Drifters 12:00 - 2:00 p.m.

Kid's Games - AGI Women of Today

12:30 - 2:00 p.m.

Kiddie Parade 2:30 p.m.

Tractor & Car Parade 3:00 p.m.

Rhythm Kings - Mike Glieden Band

4:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Medallion Hunt 4:30 p.m.

Trophy Presentations 5:00 p.m.

Lost Cause 8:30 - 12:30 p.m.

Drawing 10:00 p.m.

PREPARE FOR MOSQUITO SEASON!

With the mosquito season right around the corner and with past fears of West Nile and other diseases, residents can take measures now to prevent the spread of mosquitoes. Residents should try to get rid of all standing water and other places where mosquitoes breed. Make sure rain gutters are not plugged, empty out bird baths frequently, turn over wading pools and wheelbarrows when not in use. Keep swimming pools properly chlorinated and remove standing water from pool covers. Tires are a common place for mosquitoes to breed and should be removed. Spraying lawns may help, but please remember that spraying lawns is relatively ineffective and may be harmful to your health.

RESIDENTS ENCOURAGED TO HELP REDUCE PHOSPHORUS LEVELS IN TOWN

A recent report to the City of Arlington by the MPCA (Minnesota Pollution Control Agency) stated that the City was going to have its Plant rating changed from a "B" Plant to an "A" Plant. One of the reasons for this change was phosphorus. Phosphorus is a concern because in excess, it can speed up the aging process of lakes, rivers, and streams by stimulating algae growth. The decomposition of algae uses up available oxygen supplies, sometimes threatening the survival of fish and other aquatic organisms. Lower phosphorus levels mean cheaper testing costs for the city, which in turn mean lower utility rates for customers.

So how can residents help? Here are some examples: 1) Use phosphorus-free fertilizer. While phosphorus is necessary to grow healthy lawns, soil in many parts of Minnesota already have an adequate amount. In these instances, adding more phosphorus in fertilizer is not needed and will not benefit your lawn. Healthy lawns can be maintained with phosphorus-free fertilizers. 2) Keep fertilizer off paved surfaces. It's illegal to spread any fertilizer on hard surfaces such as streets, sidewalks, and driveways. Rain can wash the fertilizer into nearby storm drains or road ditches, eventually getting into a lake or river near you. If you accidentally spill or spread fertilizer on a hard surface, clean it up immediately. 3) Keep leaves, grass clippings, and pet waste out of the street. Leaves and grass clippings may contain phosphorus; pet waste can contain harmful bacteria as well as nutrients. Use lawn mowers that chop up grass clippings and leave them on the lawn. These mulching mowers reduce the need for fertilizers. 4) Never dump anything into a storm drain (including plants). Storm water is NOT treated by the wastewater treatment plant, and therefore it is a direct route for pollutants to enter our waterways. 5) Wash your car on the lawn to prevent phosphorus-laden rinse water from running into storm water sewers. 6) Control soil erosion around your house. When left bare, soil is easily washed away with rain, carrying phosphorus with it. Soil erosion can be prevented by keeping soil covered with vegetation or mulch. 7) All businesses should make a conscience effort to use low or non-phosphorus cleaners and detergents. 8) Lastly, everyone can make a conscience effort to be more aware of what you are buying and the effect it may have on our ecosystem. We can all institute an environmentally preferable purchasing plan in our households. Find sources for low or non-phosphorus dishwashing liquids, soaps and laundry detergent.

Statewide “Value of Cities” survey shows very positive view of city government among Minnesotans

City of Arlington, Sibley County

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A Beautiful City Growing in Unity



A recent survey conducted by Decision Resources, Ltd. for the League of Minnesota Cities shows that an overwhelming majority of city residents in the state—no matter where they live—recognize city government as an important contributor to quality of life. Furthermore, by great margins, residents trust and value the work of their elected and appointed city officials. The survey results were derived from questions asked as part of a broader research study concerning the “Value of Cities,” administered to a random sample of Minnesota city residents in November of 2007. A total of 800 city residents from Minnesota were interviewed via telephone using a random sampling method.

The survey showed that nearly two-thirds (63 percent) of respondents indicated they believe that city government plays a “very important” role in quality of life, with another 35 percent believing the city role to be “somewhat important.” Additionally, 86 percent of survey respondents indicate they trust city government “a lot” or “somewhat”—a rating that is higher than the trust level for state government (75 percent), and much higher than the Federal Government (48 percent).

In other findings, more than two-thirds of respondents said the value of services they receive from cities is “good” or “excellent”, when thinking about the quality of the services given the amount of taxes paid. In terms of how individual services are perceived, city residents identified law enforcement as the city service with the most impact on their quality of life (25 percent). The next most-common responses were street maintenance (16 percent), public works (11 percent), and parks and recreation (8 percent).

“Though we sometimes tend to take city services for granted, we can see from the survey results that a majority of residents not only are aware of those services, but are pleased with the way they are delivered,” said League Executive Director Jim Miller. “Livability factors like safe streets, clean park and recreation areas, and public libraries all contribute a great deal to the quality of life we enjoy in Minnesota cities.”

The survey also showed that nearly 80 percent of respondents have either a positive or neutral impression of city government as a whole, while only 12 percent have a negative impression. Generally, respondents have positive views not only about their own cities, but of cities throughout Minnesota. Additionally, large majorities of respondents think most city governments are forward-thinking, hard-working, ethical, essential, and smart.

“We, as city officials, know the work of local government is not always portrayed in the most positive light. With that in mind, we’re somewhat surprised by the survey results,” said Todd Prafke, League president and city administrator for the City of St. Peter. “Each of Minnesota’s 854

cities is unique in its own way. It’s great to see that, despite those differences, Minnesota city residents view their cities in remarkably similar and positive ways.”

Over the next several weeks and months, the League hopes to use the survey results to learn more about Minnesotans’ knowledge and perception of city government, with the goal of helping cities continue to provide high-quality constituent service. Additional findings about perceptions of elected officials and city staff, and the city workforce of the future, will be publicly released in the near future.

CITY’S FISCAL CONDITION IN GOOD SHAPE

The City of Arlington recently received its 2007 audit report. The overall financial condition of the City remains strong. Here are a few observations from the audit report (Dollar amounts as of 12/31/07): **General Fund** -- The General Fund is the primary operating fund for the City. The General Fund is used to account for all financial resources except those required to be accounted for in another fund (Debt Service, Enterprise, etc.). The financial condition of the General Fund continues to remain strong with a balance \$602,505, an increase of \$105,512 from 2006. For the year ended 2007, general fund revenues of \$1,403,686 exceeded expenses of \$1,298,74. The general fund balance of \$602,505 is necessary because the City derives approximately 85% to 90% of its revenues from property taxes and Local Government Aid (LGA), which are received only twice during the year - July and December, and provides a safe-guard against potential revenue shortages and/or unexpected expenditures throughout the year. **Special Revenue Funds** -- Special Revenue Funds are used to account for the proceeds of specific revenue sources that are restricted to expenditures for specific purposes. Basically, revenue from a specific fund should pay for the expenses in that fund. Special Revenue Funds for the City consist of funds like the fire and ambulance, cemetery, EDA, and community center. For the year ended 2007, special revenue funds had revenues of \$292,525 exceeding expenses of 289,364. After general fund transfers of \$126,500 to various special revenue funds, the special revenue fund balance increased from \$433,182 in 2006 to \$562,843 in 2007. **Capital Project Fund** -- Capital Project Funds are used to account for the acquisition or construction of facilities, infrastructure and equipment. The City collected \$80,837 in interest in 2007. The interest collected was offset by capital expenditures of \$94,257 for im-

provements to equipment and water and electrical services. The Capital Project Fund balances decreased in 2007 to \$1,807,134, down from \$1,820,551 the previous year. A major portion of the fund balance is designated for future projects or capital acquisitions. **Debt Service Funds** -- Debt Service Funds are used to account for the accumulation of revenues for, and payment of, long-term debt principal, interest and related costs. Much of the City’s debt is due to street, utility and building improvements. Fund balances increased by \$12,727 in 2007 to \$598,205. Fund balances are a result of transfers, assessments and taxes. Existing fund balances, combined with annual tax and assessment levy amounts, are sufficient to satisfy 2008 debt service requirements. **Enterprise Funds** -- The City’s Enterprise Funds consist of the electrical, water and sewer revenues and expenditures. The intent of these funds is that the costs of providing goods and services to the general public should be paid for by user fees and not taxes. Enterprise fund balances decreased from \$1,837,123 in 2006 to \$1,457,491 in 2007 (-\$379,632). The biggest reason for the deficit was due to the fact that the City does not budget for depreciation costs in these funds, and slightly less than expected sales in the Electric and Water Funds. **Total Fund Balances** -- Total City Funds decreased slightly from \$5,173,330 in 2006 to \$5,028,178 in 2007 (2.8%). With that being said, the City is still fiscally very healthy with a general fund balance at 45% of the 2008 budgeted expenditures. Arlington’s overall fund balance, as of December 31, 2007, was at 92% of the 2008 total budgeted expenditures. The State Auditor recommends that Cities maintain a general fund balance in the range of 30% to 50%. Contact City Offices for a complete copy of the 2007 City Audit.