

The Arlington Report

2 FREE SMALL BUSINESS SEMINARS SET FOR THURSDAY, JUNE 11TH

The Arlington Area Chamber of Commerce and the Arlington EDA invite you to two free small business seminars on Thursday, June 11th in the Community Center. Whether your business is large, medium, small or home based, you will benefit from attending these free seminars. No need to be an Arlington area business to attend, everyone is welcome. Registration and networking begin at 5:30 p.m. The first seminar, titled "Social Marketing for Businesses", begins at 6:00 p.m. and is being presented by Steve Gasser, President of Vivid Image. In this session you will learn about social marketing; see examples of good social marketing; break social networking into smaller pieces to try for your business/organization; determine your first step to growing your business by networking online; and ask questions, discuss and get answers. The second seminar, titled "Why Small Businesses Fail", begins at 7:15 p.m. and is being presented by Duane Hoversten, Entrepreneur, Educator and Innovator. In this session you will learn why small businesses fail or fail to reach their potential; be given secrets that Duane has learned from 30 plus years of various business ownership and 18 years of Coaching businesses to success; leave the session energized and knowing several steps to change your business tomorrow; and leave with a plan to build on this seminar. Visit the City's website for additional information.

CITY TO ASSIST IN WATER SERVICE LINE REPAIRS

Back in March, the City Council amended its policy on water service line repairs to ease the financial burden on property owners, and to encourage that service lines be fully replaced in the public right-of-way to reduce the amount of times a street needs to be torn up. In the past, property owners were responsible for service line repairs from the water main all the way to the connection at the house. The City would pick up the cost for Class 5 gravel and the cost to repair the street. While this policy still remains in effect, the City will now also be contributing \$500 for repairs to the water service lines themselves that are repaired in their entirety from the water main to the curb stop or service valve outside the property. Please note that this is for repairs of uncontrolled circumstances only. New or upgraded water service lines will still be done at the expense of the property owner.

ELECTRIC RATES TO INCREASE IN JUNE

At the May 4th Council meeting, the City Council passed a resolution increasing the electric rates. Starting with your electric usage in June (billable in July), Arlington users will see a slight increase in their electric rates. The per kilowatt rate will increase from \$0.067 to \$0.07. A residential property owner using about 1,000 kilowatts of electricity a month will see an estimated monthly increase in their bill of \$3. The rate increase was passed to help ease the operating losses in the electric fund of nearly \$262,000 in 2007 and \$196,000 in 2008.

PERMITS NEEDED TO PRUNE, REMOVE OR PLANT A TREE IN THE RIGHT-OF-WAY

Back in December of 2008, the City Council passed Ordinance 238 (Tree Ordinance). Included in that ordinance was the requirement for a permit for the planting, removal or pruning of trees in the public right-of-way. Specifically, Ordinance 238 states that property owners must secure a permit from the City before planting any tree in any boulevard or utility corridor in the City. City approved trees may be purchased and planted by the property owner of the land abutting the boulevard. City approved trees shall be trees of the hardwood variety, with good mature appearance, adaptability to the climate, long lived and generally resistant to injurious insects and diseases. Varieties selected for planting in boulevards should be capable of attaining the height and general appearance of existing boulevard trees in the same block. Ordinance 238 also states that property owners must secure a permit from the City before cutting, trimming, pruning, removing, spraying or otherwise treating trees, shrubs or other vegetation within the city right-of-ways or city parks or other city property. Permits for trees in the public right-of-way are available to the public. Please note that there are no fees associated with this permit and that permits are not required for trees outside of the public right-of-way.

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 unkept lawns. While the City does its best to identify these unkept 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.

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)

City of Arlington, Sibley County

Contact us at:
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Arlington, MN 55307

Phone: 507-964-2378
Fax: 507-964-5973
E-mail: cityhall@arlingtonmn.com



A Beautiful City Growing in Unity



INFORMATION ON THE EMERALD ASH BORER

With the recent discovery of Emerald ash borer (EAB) in St. Paul, the City has been receiving more and more inquiries into what EAB is. So what is EAB? Emerald ash borer is an invasive beetle that attacks and kills ash trees. Since its accidental introduction into North America, EAB has killed millions of ash trees in 10 eastern states and adjacent parts of Canada. It has killed at least 40 million ash trees so far and threatens to kill most of the ash trees throughout North America. For those that may be familiar with the Dutch Elm Disease of the 1970's and 80's, EAB may be much worse. Dutch Elm Disease killed an estimated 200 million elm trees while EAB threatens to kill 7.5 billion ash trees nationwide. Minnesota alone is estimated to contain 900 million ash trees.

The EAB is an adult metallic green beetle about a 1/2-inch long, and are active from May to September. It is difficult to detect EAB in newly infested trees. Evidence of the EAB sometimes takes up to a year to recognize. Jagged holes excavated by woodpeckers feeding on pre-pupal larvae may be the first sign that a tree has become infested. When a tree has been infested for at least one year, one-eighth inch D-shaped exit holes left by emerging adults will be present on the branches and the trunk. Bark may split vertically above larval feeding galleries. When the bark is removed from infested trees, the distinct, frass-filled larval tunnels that etch the outer sapwood and phloem are readily visible on the trunk and branches. An elliptical area of discolored sapwood, usually a result of secondary infection by fungal pathogens, sometimes surrounds larval feeding galleries. Serpentine tunnels excavated by feeding larvae interrupt the transport of nutrients and water within the tree during the summer. Foliage wilts and the tree canopy becomes increasingly thin and sparse as branches die. The typical pattern of crown decline caused by EAB is the top 1/3 dying first and then progressing down the tree. Many trees appear to lose about 30% to 50% of the canopy after 2 years of infestation and trees often die after 3-4 years of infestation. Epicormic shoots may arise on the trunk of the tree, often at the margin of live and dead tissue. Dense root sprouting sometimes occurs after trees die.

While EAB spreads slowly on its own, it can hitch a ride to new areas when people transport firewood or other wood products infested with the larvae. More information about EAB and its impact can be found on the Minnesota Department of Agriculture

(MDA) website at www.mda.state.mn.us. The Minnesota DNR is also offering more information on its forest health site at www.dnr.state.mn.us/treecare/forest_health/index.html. MDA and DNR officials are urging Minnesota citizens to take several steps to help keep EAB from spreading: *Don't transport firewood, even within Minnesota.* Don't bring firewood along on a camping trip. Buy the wood you need locally from an approved vendor. Don't bring extra wood home with you. *Don't buy or move firewood from outside Minnesota.* If someone comes to your door selling firewood, ask them about the source of the wood. If it came from outside Minnesota, don't buy it. *Watch for signs of infestation in your ash trees.* If you suspect your ash tree could be infested by EAB, visit www.mda.state.mn.us/news/publications/pestsplants/pestmanagement/eab_doihaveit.pdf. Residents can also contact city hall for additional information on EAB. Arlington city officials will also be working with its City Forester to identify times in which she can visit with the public to answer questions on EAB and/or inspect trees suspected to be diseased and/or infected with EAB.

RESIDENTS SHOULD BE AWARE OF "PUBLIC NUISANCES"

With the spring and summer months upon us and people out and about, complaints on public nuisance problems become a bigger concern for residents and their neighborhood. Recently the Arlington Police Department conducted a "Spring Clean Up" sweep throughout town to identify violators of public nuisances. From the sweep, letters were sent to property owners notifying them of the violation and asking them to correct the situation. City Ordinances 126, 184 and 195 all deal with nuisances. Ordinance 195 was dealt with on the first page of this newsletter. The public should know these ordinances to avoid public nuisance complaints. Ordinance 126 addresses the storage of property in open yard areas and states that no used furniture, appliances, inoperable equipment, garbage, or other refuse shall be kept outside of an enclosed building or garbage disposal container. Residents should also be aware of the fact that during construction or repair of property, building materials shall be stacked or stored in a neat and orderly fashion, and in a manner so as to avoid presenting any danger to the general public. Refuse building materials shall be neatly piled or stored in garbage disposal containers. All building materials and refuse shall be cleared from the construction project no later than 90 days after the completion of the construction or repair. Ordinance 184 regulates vehicle parking and the parking of all-terrain, off-road, off-highway vehicles and snowmobiles and states that no vehicles may be parked or stored on the premises which are inoperable or unlicensed, unless such vehicles are kept in a fully enclosed structure or fully enclosed licensed trailer, so that no part of the vehicle can be viewed in pub-

lic. No vehicles may be parked or stored on the premises which are advertised for sale or rent, except that one vehicle may be advertised for sale or rent as an isolated personal transaction, and not in the ordinary course of business of sale or rent of vehicles, and such vehicle advertised for sale or rent must be operable and licensed. Ordinance 184 goes on to state that Licensed Off-Road Vehicles (ORVs), All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) and, Off-Highway Motorcycles (OHMs) shall not be parked on a street or on private property for more than 48 concurrent hours within a 7-day week time period, unless such vehicles are kept in a fully enclosed manufactured licensed trailer, so that the public can view no part of the vehicle. Car parts, accessories, tools, and other items used to work on, repair, or otherwise used for said vehicles shall also be subject to the above conditions. Snowmobiles shall not be parked in front yard of any residential property for more than 48 concurrent hours within a 7-day week time period. Public nuisances become more prevalent during the spring and summer months and residents should cooperate with the city to eliminate these "nuisances". Public nuisances can decrease the value of one's house, can effect the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Arlington, and takes away from the beauty of one's neighborhood or town. Taking measures to avoid these nuisances benefits everyone. While the City does its best to identify these "nuisances" in advance, most are dealt with from citizen complaints. Citizens wishing to file a complaint about a public nuisance must do so in writing for any action to take place.