

The Arlington Report

ARLINGTON TOWN & COUNTRY DAYS IS JUNE 16 - 19

Town and Country Days will kick off on Thursday, June 16 with the Miss Arlington Coronation at the Arlington Community Center (5:30 p.m.). The remaining schedule is as follows:

Friday, June 17

Breakfast on the Farm -- 6:30 a.m. - 10 a.m. at the Sibley County Fairgrounds. Held in conjunction with the Minnesota Holstein Association.

Saturday, June 18

All events at Four Seasons Park.

Arlington Roadstar Classic Walk, Fun Run & Dog Walk-- 2 Mile Run (8:30 a.m.), 4 Mile Run, Walk & Dog Walk (8:35 a.m.), Kid's Fun Run for Ages 12 & under (9:45 a.m.).

Kickball Tournament -- The tournament starts at 9 a.m. with a 12 team limit. Call Katie Rickert at 320-510-2390 to sign up. Deadline is June 12.

Bean Bag Toss -- Team check-in is at Noon. Tournament starts at 1 p.m. \$20 entry fee, 48 teams. Call 964-2211 to sign up. Deadline is June 12.

Water Fights -- By the Water Tower at 1:00 p.m. Hosted by the Arlington Fire Department. Surrounding Fire Departments to compete! Children's Fights also to be held!

BANKO Games -- Starting at 3 p.m.

"The Newlywed Game" -- 6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m. Bob "Eubanks" Thomes, Emcee. Come and see how well newlyweds (and not so newlyweds) really know their spouse! Playing for the Charity of "The Newlyweds" choice.

Medallion Hunt -- 6:30 p.m.

Band-Blurred Vision -- 8:30 p.m. - 12:30 a.m. \$5 cover charge. Purchase a raffle ticket and get into the dance free (must show ticket stub).

Sunday, June 19

Parade at 1:00 p.m. -- Starts at St. Paul's Lutheran Church. Come to Four Seasons Park immediately after the parade to listen to *The Wendinger Band* perform and enjoy *Polka & Pork Chops!* Proceeds from the pork chops will benefit the Arlington Area Chamber of Commerce's Arli-Dazzle Parade in December.

Town & Country Days Raffle Drawing to be held following the parade in the park.

Be a part of the Fun! Food vendors, beverages and other events will be available at Four Seasons Park. Arlington Town and Country Days is sponsored and put on by the Arlington Chamber of Commerce.

CITY ENTERS THE "SOCIAL NETWORK"

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 "City of Arlington, Minnesota" and click the "like" button. Please note the City's social media policy.

NATURAL GAS LEAKS AND SAFETY

CenterPoint Energy, in collaboration with the City, is getting the word out on natural gas leaks. Gas leaks have become an issue in recent years as a result of copper thefts. CenterPoint Energy is asking that if a property is going to be vacant for an extended amount of time and gas service is not needed, that the responsible property owner contact CenterPoint Energy to arrange to have the meter turned off. CenterPoint Energy is urging the public to contact them at 612-321-4680 to discontinue natural gas service in vacant properties when possible. Additionally, if you smell, hear or see a natural gas leak, CenterPoint Energy is asking that you do the following: First, leave the area immediately on foot and tell others to do the same. Do not use electric switches, telephones (including cell phones), drive or start a vehicle, or do anything that could cause a spark. Secondly, once safely away from the area, call the CenterPoint Energy emergency gas leak hotline at 800-296-9815 and dial 911 to report the location and description of the leak; and CenterPoint Energy will send a trained service technician immediately. Lastly, never try to repair a gas leak yourself.

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. Old 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. Use a mosquito repellent when outside. Wearing light colored, loose fitting clothing can be helpful. When practical, wear long sleeves and pants.

REMINDER ON SUMMER RECREATION

Summer recreation begins Wednesday morning, June 8. Time is still available to register for the programs. Registration forms can be picked up at City Hall or on the City's website. The cost is \$15 per child.

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)

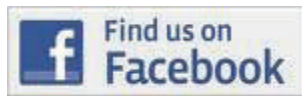
City of Arlington, Sibley County

Contact us at:
204 Shamrock Drive
Arlington, MN 55307

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



A Beautiful City Growing in Unity



CONSUMER ALERT: SUMMER STORM SEASON

May was a somewhat crazy month for weather. A series of severe storms hit portions of the northwest suburbs and southeast Minnesota. A tornado caused major damage to homes and businesses in North Minneapolis. Overnight, a massive tornado in Missouri claimed the lives of more than 100 people. And in April, a single storm created 173 tornadoes in one day, causing millions in damage and killing more than 300 people across the south. Certainly, these are not the last storms we will see this season. There are many things in life we cannot control. But we can control our ability to prepare for storms by investing a little time in getting ready for them. The Minnesota Department of Commerce has developed a one-stop shop to help Minnesota homeowners and businesses prepare for natural disasters. **Complete a Home Inventory** — The Department of Commerce urges consumers to take inventory of their belongings ahead of the summer storm season. Research suggests that 48 percent of consumers do not have an inventory of their possessions. Of those who do, 32 percent have no photos and 58 percent have no receipts. The Department of Commerce has provided a *Home Inventory Checklist* which walks consumers from room to room in their home, helping compile a list of their property. By completing the checklist, homeowners who file a claim or qualify for assistance will know what they had in their home that may need to be replaced. **Information for Renters** — If you rent and you don't already have renter's insurance, you may want to consider purchasing coverage. Renter's insurance is relatively inexpensive and portable. The average renter's insurance policy costs between \$15 and \$30 per month. Renter's policies can cover everything from electronics to clothing to household appliances. Replacing all your possessions in the wake of a storm will cost much more. **Auto Coverage** — Storms can damage autos in a number of ways: hail damage to the exterior and glass; wind driven debris damage; damage from fallen trees; and tornado damage. Coverage for these types of losses is provided by your policy under the *Comprehensive* portion of the auto policy. Some policies call this coverage *Other than Collision*. Make sure you ask your insurance agent how much coverage you have. **What to Do After a Storm** — If a storm damages your property, follow these simple steps. *Be safe*. Look out for downed power lines. Do not try to go into an area until the official all-clear is given. *Call your insurance company to report the damage*.

They will send out adjusters to review the damage and assess the loss. Take photos of the damage and remove personal property if your home cannot be secured. Do not dispose of property until an insurance adjuster has reviewed it for your claim. Many policies include reimbursement for storage costs incurred until your home is repaired. *Beware of storm-chasing contractors*. Do not agree to a contract without checking their references and checking with the Department of Labor's Residential Contractors Division at (651) 284-5069. *Call the Minnesota Department of Commerce*. For questions regarding insurance call the Minnesota Department of Commerce Consumer Response Team at (651) 296-2488 or (800) 657-3602. You can also visit their website at www.insurance.mn.gov.

CITY'S FISCAL CONDITION REMAINS HEALTHY

The City recently received its 2010 audit report. The overall financial condition of the City remains strong. Here are a few observations from the audit report (Dollar amounts as of 12/31/10): **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 remains healthy with a balance of \$696,322, a decrease of \$48,780 from 2009. The General Fund balance of \$696,322 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. With that being said, the City ended the year with a General Fund balance at 51% of the 2011 budgeted expenditures. This is somewhat higher than normal from what is recommended by the State Auditor. The State Auditor recommends that Cities maintain a General Fund balance in the range of 35% to 50%. The decrease in the general fund balance mainly resulted from a loss of property tax revenue due to State Aid cuts. **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, revolving loan, and community center. Special Revenue Fund balances decreased from \$786,313 in 2009 to \$642,993 in 2010. The biggest reason for the loss in

funds was due to improvements to buildings. **Capital Project Funds** - Capital Project Funds are used to account for the acquisition or construction of facilities, infrastructure and equipment. The Capital Project Fund balances increased in 2010 to \$161,451, up from \$138,447 the previous year. The increase in the fund balance was due to the establishment of a Capital Improvement Plan. 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. The City's total debt (not including enterprise funds) decreased by \$269,828 (10.5%) in 2010 to \$2,305,172. Existing fund balances, combined with annual tax and assessment levy amounts, are sufficient to satisfy 2011 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. The water fund saw a slight increase in its fund balance while the sewer and electric funds lost money in 2010. The water fund saw its fund balance increase from \$17,009 in 2009 to \$32,120 in 2010. Rate increases in 2010 helped increase the fund balance. The sewer fund decreased from \$480,619 in 2009 to \$255,188 in 2010. The decrease was due to capital expenditures in 2010. The electric fund balance decreased from \$1,575,249 in 2009 to \$924,146 in 2010, also due to capital expenses. Contact City Offices for a complete copy of the City Audit.