

The Arlington Report

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)

COUNCIL CALLS PUBLIC HEARING ON STREET IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

At their February 2nd Meeting, the City Council received a report from its engineer on the proposed improvement of Circle Lane from 4th Avenue SE to the end of Circle Lane on the east; along with Horseshoe Drive from Freedom Drive to the end of Horseshoe Drive on the south in the southeast section of Arlington; pursuant to Minnesota Statute 429.011 to 429.111. Upon receiving the report, the Council called a public hearing on the proposed improvement for 5:30 p.m. on March 2nd. The proposed improvement will consist of a complete reconstruct of the street, curb and gutter, along with the replacement of water and sewer mains and services and storm sewer. The total estimated cost of the improvement is \$926,000. The public hearing will be held in room 2 at the Community Center. Anyone interested in addressing the Council on the proposed improvement should attend the hearing. Written responses will be received until 5:00 p.m. on Monday, March 2nd for those unable to attend the hearing.

CURBSIDE GARBAGE COLLECTION

Arlington residents and business owners, due to the time of year, the alleys are very soft and cannot handle the large garbage trucks driving on them. Due to this condition, the City is asking all residents and businesses to place their garbage cans and recycling containers curbside. Garbage companies have also been notified and have been asked not to drive through the alleys until such a time that the alleys have been dried out. Residents and business owners will be notified when they alleys may be used again.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS STILL NEEDED

Interested in volunteering for your community? Want to be involved in the decision making process of city governance? The Mayor and City Council are still seeking interested individuals to fill open positions on the Parks and Police Committees. Interested candidates must be a resident of the City and need to fill out an "Application for an Appointment to Advisory Boards/Commissions/Committees form. Forms can be picked up at the City Office and are also available on the City's web site.

CARDBOARD RECYCLING

The City would like to remind businesses that the weekly recycling containers on Main Street are meant for individual purposes. Businesses with

large quantities of cardboard should contract with a local recycling company to obtain a cardboard recycling container.

CITY BOARD OF APPEAL & EQUALIZATION HEARING SET FOR APRIL 13th

The annual Board of Appeal and Equalization for the City of Arlington will meet, by appointment, at the Office of the Sibley County Assessor, from 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Monday, April 13th. The purpose of the meeting is to review and correct any aggrieved assessments (values) for Arlington property owners for the year 2009. All persons considering themselves aggrieved by said assessments, or who wish to complain that the property of another is assessed to low, are hereby notified to appear at said meeting and show cause of having such assessment corrected. The meeting will be an open-book style of meeting with any additional action taking place at the County Board of Appeal and Equalization. Want to know why your house/business is valued at what it is? Want a better understanding of the valuation process? This is the meeting to attend.

PET LICENSES DUE!

All pet licenses issued in 2008 will expire on March 31st. According to City Ordinance 206, all domesticated pets (dogs and cats) must be licensed. Residents are encouraged to stop by the City Office before April 1st to obtain a 2009 pet license. The cost for the license before April 1st is \$5 per pet. Residents must also provide a health certificate showing that the pet is current on its rabies vaccination. Due to the spring vaccination schedule, your pet may not be due for vaccinations until after April 1st. You should still license your pet in March to avoid late fees. You will be permitted to bring the health certificate in at a later date. Licensing your pet assures that it will be taken care of and returned safely if it gets loose and is picked up by the Police Department. Residents should also be aware that a total of 3 adult (includes spayed or neutered) pets are allowed per household. Also, if you have lost (ran away, gave away, died) a pet within the last year, please notify the City Office so we can remove the pet from our current listing. The City will be following up on our listing of pets again this year with the help of our local Police Department. Residents should also remember that pets are not permitted to run at large within City limits. Pets must either be leashed or cabled/chained, kenneled or in a fenced yard and are not allowed to roam freely. Individuals violating the City's pet ordinance may be guilty of a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine.

City of Arlington, Sibley County

Contact us at:
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A Beautiful City Growing in Unity



BUILDING/ZONING PERMITS NEEDED

With the spring construction season right around the corner, ideas for home improvement projects are starting to be considered. Property owners should be aware that the City of Arlington has adopted the Minnesota State Building Code. With this adoption, property owners need to remember that a building permit is needed for most projects. Permits are not required for cosmetic improvements such as painting, carpeting, kitchen cabinets, floor covering and normal maintenance or repairs without structural changes. However, the work may need to be done by a licensed contractor. Roofing, siding, decks, windows, additions, electrical (State Inspector), plumbing, & heating are all jobs that need a permit. Questions regarding whether you need a permit or a licensed contractor should be directed to the City's Building Inspector. So you may be asking yourself, why do I need a building permit? Building permits are the means the City of Arlington uses to reduce potential hazards and unsafe construction practices thereby ensuring the public health, safety and welfare. Besides protecting the public health, safety and welfare of its residents, the adoption of the State Building Code can serve as a benefit to the community in a number of other ways. First off, even in these economic times, your home is an investment. If your construction project does not comply with City Codes, the value of your investment could be greatly reduced. Property insurers may not cover work done without permits and inspections. If you decide to sell your home or buildings that have had modifications without a permit, you may be required to tear down the addition, leave it unoccupied, or do costly repairs. Secondly, a property owner who can show that code requirements were strictly and consistently met - as demonstrated by a code official's carefully maintained records at City Hall - has a strong ally if something happens to trigger a potentially destructive lawsuit. Thirdly, your permit also allows City Code Officials to protect the public by reducing the potential hazards of unsafe construction and ensuring public health, safety and welfare. By following code guidelines, your completed project will meet minimum standards of safety and will be less likely to cause injury to you, your family, your friends or your future. The Building Code provides for more consistency in construction design, standards and safety throughout town. The building code allows for home buyers to be reasonably confident that the home they purchase will perform as they expect, which

in turn provides stable property values. With the State Building Code in place, and through strict code enforcement, the City will be able to help reduce or eliminate blight and substandard structures. For more information on the State Building Code, or for more information on what is required of your construction project or contractor, contact City Hall. Also, please remember that projects still need to have the zoning checked before any work can be done. Zoning does not need to be checked for normal maintenance and repairs, or for roofing, siding, windows, electrical, plumbing and heating work. City zoning and building laws can be reviewed at City Hall or at the City's web site. The City's building inspector is Darin Haslip of 101 Development Resources, Inc. (507-351-4599 or 507-642-3816) and the zoning administrator is Cynthia Smith-Strack of MDG (contact city offices).

ARLINGTON EXPECTING ADDITIONAL STATE AID CUTS

Back in the January issue of the "Arlington Report", it was mentioned that the City had received a cut in State Aid of \$56,348. That cut was to address the State's short-term deficit of \$426 million. However, at that time, the City did not know what the effect, if any, was going to be on State Aid in 2009, 2010 and the years to come. In late January, Governor Pawlenty released his 2010-11 budget proposal. At that time, the State forecast showed a \$4.8 billion deficit for the 2010-2011 biennium budget. The Governor's budget showed cuts of 2009 Local Government Aid (LGA) and Market Value Homestead Credit (MVHC) reimbursements by \$99.6 million. The 2009 cuts to LGA would be taken from the aid amounts certified last year for 2009. According to the proposal, the reduction to 2010 aid and credit is \$185.8 million. In both 2009 and 2010, the cuts are made as a percentage of city revenue base (certified aid plus levy). All cities will be subject to cuts. The proposal will mean that the City of Arlington will lose \$73,540 in 2009 and \$153,565 in 2010. Aids and credits will also be reduced by \$148 million on an ongoing basis starting with 2011 aids according to the Governor's proposal. To address these State Aid cuts, City staff is currently working on reducing city spending by 5%. As part of the solution to the 2003 state budget deficit, 2003 LGA was reduced by \$121 million while MVHC reimburse-

ment was cut by \$20 million. In 2004, LGA was cut by \$149 million and the cut to MVHC reimbursement was \$20 million. While city aids and credits were about five percent of the state's budget at that time, the cuts to these programs represented about ten percent of the budget solution. The governor's proposal does not include any reductions to police and fire aids. The Governor's solution to the 2010-2011 \$4.8 billion shortfall includes a reduction in state expenditures by \$2.5 billion; an increase of one-time revenues by \$3.2 billion; an increase of general fund fees by \$2 million; new spending initiatives of \$323 million; tax cuts of \$287 million; and budget reserve funding at \$250 million. The Governor's budget proposal is the first step in the budget process. The legislature will consider his recommendations over the next several months as it debates how to balance the budget. There is also concern that the State's deficit could grow even more when the next budget forecast is released on March 3rd. Current projections estimate that the \$4.8 billion deficit could increase to \$6-7 billion. An increase in the deficit of this amount would make it almost certain that additional proposed State Aid cuts to the City will be increased from its current levels of \$73,450 in 2009 and \$153,565 in 2010. (Source: *League of MN Cities*)