

The Arlington Report

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Jim Kreft -- Mayor
 Jim Pederson -- Council Member
 Bob Pichelmann -- Council Member
 Curt Reetz -- Council Member
 Mike Vrklan -- Council Member
 Galen Wills -- 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)
 TCW (877-685-3815)
 Renville-Sibley Sanitation (866-800-6244)

OPEN HOUSE SCHEDULED FOR THE 2010 ELECTRICAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

The City Council is extending an invitation to the general public to attend an Open House regarding the 2010 Electrical Improvement Project. The Open House has been scheduled for Monday, March 15 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. in the Community Center. The City Council has been discussing improvements to the City's electrical system for a couple of years now. Those discussions included the phasing out of the old substation in the center of town. Due to the age, current space restrictions, and increasing problems with the substation, the City Council (from advise of the City's electrical engineer) has begun the process of switching the entire load from the old substation to the new substation in the northeast corner of town. In December of 2009, the Council approved a \$540,000 improvement project that will assist in the eventual phasing out of the old substation. The project, which is scheduled to begin sometime this spring and will continue into the summer, will consist of an upgrade to some of the main feeder lines in town and will also consist of a conversation of some overhead lines to underground. The project for 2010 affects three general areas. It will specifically address some of the underground power lines along Shamrock Drive from the Community Center west to Memorial Park, involve the conversation of overhead lines to underground along 1st Avenue North from the dead end south to Main Street, and includes the upgrade of overhead lines in the alley east of the railroad tracks between East Main Street and East Alden Street to 4th Avenue. The project is being paid for by electrical reserve funds. Have a question on the project? Attend the Open House on March 15 or call City Hall.

PET LICENSES DUE!

All pet licenses issued in 2009 will expire on March 31. 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 2010 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.

CITY BOARD OF APPEAL & EQUALIZATION HEARING SET FOR APRIL 12

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 12. The purpose of the meeting is to review and correct any aggrieved assessments (values) for Arlington property owners for the year 2010. 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 hearing. 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.

UPCOMING CURBSIDE GARBAGE COLLECTION

Arlington residents and business owners, due to the time of year, the gravel alleys will be getting soft and cannot handle the large garbage trucks driving on them. Due to this condition, the City anticipates sometime in March, asking all residents and businesses to place their garbage cans and recycling containers curbside. Garbage companies will also be notified and will be asked not to drive through the gravel alleys until such a time that the alleys have been dried out. Please keep an eye-out in the Arlington Enterprise for a notice of when this change in garbage hauling will actually take place, depending on weather conditions.

WARMING HOUSE NOW CLOSED

Skating rink users should be aware that the warming house is now closed for the year. Thank you to Richard and Kris Mueller for all your help this year!

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



A Beautiful City Growing in Unity



EVER THOUGHT ABOUT BECOMING AN EMT?

Ever thought about volunteering in your community? Ever thought about becoming an EMT? Why you may ask? Volunteering can be an interesting, rewarding and fun way to meet new people and contribute to your community! Ambulance services like Arlington's are always looking for new members to enhance our ability to respond to emergencies. Arlington is specifically looking for individuals to cover daytime shifts during the week. Interested in joining? Here are some questions and answers to frequently asked questions that may influence your decision.

Question: What is required to become an EMT (Emergency Medical Technician)?

Answer: A person wishing to be certified as an EMT needs to successfully complete a 110 hour course and pass the National Registry Written Exam.

Question: How often do the EMT classes meet?

Answer: Usually the EMT classes are held two nights a week for 4 hours each night. The class is usually completed in about three and one-half months.

Question: How much does the EMT class cost?

Answer: Although prices do vary slightly between training institutions, the current cost for an EMT course is between \$1,000 - \$2,000. Most tuitions include the cost of textbooks and workbooks.

Question: Will the City of Arlington pay for my tuition?

Answer: Yes, the City of Arlington will pay for your tuition provided that you pass the class and become an active member, in good standing, of the Arlington Area Ambulance Service for a minimum of one year.

Question: Does working for the volunteer ambulance mean I don't get paid?

Answer: Absolutely not. When a person "takes call" it means the person has signed up for a particular shift (either daytime or overnight), and the person will receive a nominal hourly fee for being on-call. The expectation for that person that is "on-call" is that they can respond to the ambulance base within five minutes once their pager goes off indicating they are needed for an ambulance call. Once the pager goes off, then the EMT will receive an hourly wage for the length of the call.

Question: Are there any additional training requirements once a person passes the EMT class?

Answer: Yes there are. The Arlington Area Ambulance Service meets the first Thursday of each month to cover business, scheduling and training. These meetings generally take about two hours.

If you have any other questions or are interested in joining the Arlington Area Ambulance Service, please feel free to contact a member of the Service or call ambulance manager Kevin Sullivan at (612) 723-3166.

PROPOSED STATE AID CUTS TO AFFECT CITIES, INCLUDING ARLINGTON

On February 15, Governor Tim Pawlenty released his supplemental budget recommendations to the 2010 Legislature and the public. The supplemental budget includes recommendations to address the State's current \$1.2 billion projected state deficit, and to also address his other spending and tax initiatives for the 2010 legislative session. For Arlington and other cities in Minnesota, the Governor's recommendation includes an additional round of deep city aid and credit reductions for 2010 and a continuation of deep cuts to cities into the 2011 and 2012 distributions. Included in the Governor's budget recommendation was an additional \$125 million reduction in Local Government Aid (LGA) and market value homestead credit (MVHC) from the distributions due to be made in 2010. The \$125 million proposed reduction is on top of the Governor's \$128 million unallotment that was scheduled already for this year. Under previous unallotment reductions, most cities under 1,000 in population were exempt from the cuts. However, for this round of cuts, the supplemental budget spreads to all cities. The combined impact of the 2010 unallotments (\$128 million) and these additional cuts (\$125 million) mean that 179 cities (21%) will receive no LGA while 151 cities will also receive no MVHC reimbursement funding in 2010. If adopted, the Governor's proposal could have a major affect on the 2010 budget and beyond. The proposed \$125 million reduction in LGA would result in additional cuts of \$121,259 (20% of the current budget's LGA) in 2010 to the City of Arlington. The proposed cut is

equivalent to 8.8% of the City's budgeted General Fund Revenue for 2010. If the Governor's budget is adopted, the City's LGA will have been cut by \$229,960 (31%) from the pre-unallotment amount. These cuts would continue into the 2011 and 2012 budget cycle and likely beyond for the city, and will be on top of cuts of \$56,348 in 2008 and \$46,156 in 2009. The 2008 cuts were offset by the City reserves. 2009 cuts were offset by a reduction of the City budget. If the Governor's proposed budget is adopted, LGA amounts for the City will be at levels not seen since 2004. So what's the big deal with LGA you may ask? LGA accounts for about 46% of the City's General Fund revenue in 2010. Besides property taxes, LGA is the biggest "revenue" source for the City. Though LGA funds are not dedicated for any specific purpose, LGA usually pays for important city services like police, fire, and ambulance protection, parks and other recreation, libraries, snowplowing and street repair. A reduction in LGA will likely result in a form of service cuts, potentially higher taxes, or both. 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 budget deficit could grow even more when the next budget forecast is released on March 2. The City Council will continue to monitor the State's financial situation and will make the appropriate decisions as needed. (Source: LMC)