

# The Arlington Report

## 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)  
 TCW (877-685-3815)  
 Renville-Sibley Sanitation (866-  
 800-6244)

## PET LICENSES DUE!

All pet licenses issued in 2010 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 1 to obtain a 2011 pet license. The cost for the license before April 1 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 1. 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 only 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 SEEKING HELP WITH SNOW MELT

With the record setting snow fall of this past winter season, the City of Arlington is asking residents to help prevent street flooding and icing by clearing snow away from storm sewer catch basins. When the weather turns warmer and snow begins to melt, it's important that the runoff water is able to get into the storm sewer. If the catch basin is covered by a build-up of snow and ice, street and yard flooding can occur. Should the thermometer dip after melting takes place, a street can become an ice rink.

## COUNCIL MEETING TIME CHANGED

To accommodate a joint meeting with the Hospital Board, the March 21 regularly scheduled meeting of the Arlington City Council has been pushed back from 6:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. This change is for the meeting on March 21 only.

## WARMING HOUSE NOW CLOSED

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

## CURBSIDE GARBAGE COLLECTION

Due to the time of year, the graveled alleyways will be getting 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 will be asked not to drive through the graveled alleyways until such a time that the alleys have been dried out. This will become effective Monday, February 28 and will continue until further notice. Areas with cement alleyways are excluded from this notice.

## 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 Tuesday, April 12. The purpose of the meeting is to review and correct any aggrieved assessments (values) for Arlington property owners for the year 2011. All persons considering themselves aggrieved by said assessments, or who wish to complain that the property of another is assessed too 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.

## EDA/PLANNING & ZONING OFFICES MOVED

In an effort to provide its citizens with more efficient services, the EDA, Planning and Zoning Offices have moved from the Technology Center to the Community Center. The move allows the City to provide a "one stop shop" for residents and business owners seeking city information. Cynthia Smith-Strack, the City's EDA and Planning & Zoning Director, has moved her offices to the Council Chambers within the Community Center. Cynthia's office hours will remain the same (Tuesday's from 9:00 a.m. to Noon and Thursday's from Noon to 3:00 p.m.), and she can continue to be reached by contacting the city office during these hours.

## PAY EQUITY REPORT AVAILABLE

Every three years, the City of Arlington is required to submit a pay equity report to the State. The report analyzes local government and its pay structure for evidence of inequities, and requires a report of this information to the State. The report is public data and is available to anyone requesting a copy of it.

## 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](mailto:cityhall@arlingtonmn.com)



*A Beautiful City Growing in Unity*



## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON GARBAGE SURVEY

First off, the City would like to thank those of you who have filled out and returned the survey on garbage waste hauling in town. The response from the public on the survey has been outstanding. As the City begins to compile and evaluate the results of the survey, there have been a couple of questions raised on the purpose of the survey along with a couple of misconceptions expressed by those filling out the survey. The City will try to answer some of those questions and misconceptions below.

### Why is the City looking at the possibility of going with only one waste hauler?

The frequent truck traffic on our city streets have raised some concern among council members on the added maintenance costs to our streets along with raising some safety concerns. With residents having to pay street, curb and gutter assessments in the range of \$2,800 to \$5,500, the Council wanted to look at ways to extend the life of a city street. A 2009 report by the MPCA showed that one garbage truck has the same impact on streets as 1,279 cars. Ideally, fewer trucks mean fewer street repairs, which in turn would hopefully mean longer lasting roads.

Don't grain haulers and semi-truck traffic cause more damage than a garbage truck? They probably do. However, grain haulers and semi-trucks should be using designated truck routes through town. That's important to note because truck routes are usually 9-ton roads, which is more conducive for heavier truck traffic. Residential roads are usually 5-ton roads, making it more conducive for cars and light trucks. Grain haulers and semi-trucks should not be using residential streets as a regular mode through town. Going with one waste hauler would likely reduce residential garbage truck traffic from 5-6 vehicles a week to 1-2, likely reducing the "stress" currently put on roads and alleys.

Are you crazy, won't going with one hauler and eliminating competition dramatically increase my rates? Ultimately, that question alone has gotten the City Council to where we are today. And by most of the survey responses to date, that is a major concern of Arlington residents. Research done by city staff in 2010 showed that rate surveys are a common practice in the evaluations conducted by other cities when considering the implementation of a "one waste hauler" collection system. Most studies have shown that households in a "one waste hauler" garbage system pay less than those in a "multiple waste

hauler" system. A 2009 report by the MPCA showed that the average cost of trash removal in cities with multiple waste haulers were about 50% higher than rates in a one hauler system. The average monthly rate for a 60-gallon container in a multiple waste hauler system was at \$25.46. In a one hauler system the average price was \$16.98. Other reports have drawn the same conclusion. A 2004 report by the City of Falcon Heights showed that households in a multiple waste hauler system paid about \$4.69 more per month (all sizes) than those in a single hauler system. A 2001/2002 study by Oakdale showed that their households (multiple system) were paying, on average, \$2.77 more per month than those in a single hauler system. A 2001 report compiled to the City of Lauderdale stated that open haulers in their city were charging, on average, \$17.09/month for a 60 gallon cart compared to the average price of \$12.06/month for those in a single hauler system. A 2000 study by North St. Paul showed that households paid about \$3-\$6 more per month than those in a single hauler system. In a single hauler system, the provider is usually able to lower their cost per household through increased efficiency.

Isn't the City pursuing a monopoly on waste hauling? This is a valid question and concern and is probably the single biggest factor on why the City wouldn't go with a single hauler. The availability of choice and the want for choice, along with costs, is one of the biggest concerns expressed by residents on why they don't want to see only one waste hauler. And isn't that at the heart and soul of America, the ability to have a choice? If the Council were to elect to go with a single hauler system, it would be essential that competition would still play a role on the selection of a waste hauler. Ideally, in a single hauler waste system, it is essential that the City as a whole seek competitive bids on a regular basis. A 1993 report by the Attorney General's Office noted that communities that maintained a continued relationship with existing haulers were paying between 17.6% and 48.5% more than communities that competitively selected haulers. Thus, to take full advantage of a single hauler system, the city should not simply continually negotiate a contract extension with the existing hauling company, but would have to competitively bid contracts from time-to-time. Thus maintaining competition between waste haulers. In past years, the City has actually received communication from area (small-town) waste haulers in which they expressed interest in providing residential waste hauling services, if and only if, they were the only waste hauler allowed in town.

What are the steps from here on out? If you haven't already, please fill out the survey and return it to City Hall. Your input on this project will go a long way in influencing any possible decisions made by the City Council. Please note that the City has NOT made a decision yet to proceed any further with this project. They are waiting on the results of the surveys. If it is the desire of the City Council to proceed with a single garbage hauler, the process to do so could take up to 12 months or more. Minnesota State Law sets forth the process by which a City may go with a single hauler system. The process includes the notification of the current waste haulers in town, public hearings, planning and negotiation periods, and an eventual finding of fact by the City.

Recent studies in Minnesota approximate that 65% to 80% of the cities use a "multiple hauler" waste collection system with 20% to 35% using a "single hauler" waste collection system. While there are many questions and concerns probably left unanswered, the City encourages anyone who would like additional information to contact City Hall. Copies of the 2009 MPCA report on waste hauling is available upon request.