

# 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)

## ARLINGTON NAMED "TREE CITY USA" FOR THE SECOND STRAIGHT YEAR

For the second straight year, Arlington has been named a Tree City USA community by the Arbor Day Foundation. The Tree City USA program is sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation in cooperation with the National Association of State Foresters and the USDA Forest Service. Arlington has met the four standards to become a Tree City USA community: having a tree board or department, a tree care ordinance, a comprehensive community forestry program, and an Arbor Day observance and proclamation. Communities that receive a Tree City USA recognition not only have taken the time to meet these four standards, they recognize that: 1) Trees promote healthier communities by filtering the air we breathe by removing dust and other particles. 2) Trees moderate climate, conserve water and provide habitat for wildlife. 3) Trees reduce the "heat island effect" in urban areas caused by pavement and buildings. 4) Trees can increase property values and reduce energy use and add beauty to our homes and neighborhoods. More information about Tree City USA can be found at [www.arborday.org/TreeCityUSA](http://www.arborday.org/TreeCityUSA).

## REMINDER ON RECREATIONAL FIRES

City residents should remember that recreational (outdoor) fires are permitted within city limits as long as they are contained in an outdoor fireplace, barbecue equipment, or a concrete-lined fire pit, sufficient to provide physical limitation to the spread of the fire. *Recreational purposes* shall include only the cooking of food or the providing of heat and light for outdoor social gatherings. Only propane, charcoal bricks or wood products may be used to fuel outdoor fires (absolutely no garbage!). Outdoor fires must be supervised at all times by at least one adult person or extinguished if unsupervised. Outdoor fires shall be created or maintained at a distance of at least 15 feet from all structures and property lines.

## CEMETERY NOTICE

The City of Arlington would like to remind everyone that decorations in the Public Cemetery must be affixed to the headstone or part of the wash area so as not to interfere with the path of the mowers. Special decorations are allowed one week prior to Memorial Day, but must be removed from the grass area within two weeks following the holiday. Please be aware that non-conforming decorations will be removed by City Staff.

## RESIDENTIAL SALES RISE, PRICES DROP

Arlington recently received its 2009 Residential Property Sales Report from the Sibley County Assessor. There were 25 homes sold in 2009. This number was a good increase from 2008 when there were 15 home sales. The average home sales price dropped from \$119,588 in 2008 to \$116,588 in 2009. This was the third straight year that the average home sales price dropped. Information on the sales report is based off of sales from October of 2008 to September of 2009. A copy of the report can be picked up at City Hall.

## COMPOST SITE IS NOW OPEN

Open 7 days a week during daylight hours for residents in city limits. Located near the wastewater treatment facility on Freedom Drive (SE corner of town). *Allowable Compost*: lawn clippings - garden compost - leaves (no plastic bags). *Small Brush Pile Area - No stumps or logs*. Chipping on location for large quantities at a cost is available through the City. Call City Office for chipping services.

## REMINDER WHEN MOWING GRASS

Residents should remember that the discharging of lawn clippings onto city streets is not allowed. Clippings that are discharged onto city streets eventually wash into the storm sewers and cause them to clog. Along with being an inconvenience to residents, clogged sewers are costly and time consuming for the City to clean and unclog. The City is asking all residents to take their grass clippings to the compost site.

## REMINDER ON SUMMER WATER USE

With the summer months nearing and the potential of dryer weather, watering of lawns and gardens become more of a priority for residents. Residents should remember that your sewer charge is based on your water usage. To avoid having to pay high sewer costs for summer watering usage, residents should inquire with City Staff on purchasing a lawn meter. Residents save money with a lawn meter, because water that runs through the lawn meter is not charged the sewer rate.

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS STILL NEEDED

Interested in volunteering for your community? Want to be involved in the decision making process of city governance? The Mayor & City Council are still seeking interested individuals to fill an open position on the Police Committee. 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. **City offices will be closed on Monday, May 31 for the Memorial Day Holiday.**

## 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*



## ARLINGTON DESIGNATED A GOVERNOR'S FIT CITY

Governor Tim Pawlenty and the Governor's Health Cabinet announced in late March that Arlington had been designated as a *Governor's Fit City*. The city earned the recognition by making a commitment to support and encourage its residents to be more physically active and to improve the overall health of the community.

Arlington achieved this designation by completing an application with the Minnesota Department of Health. The application asks cities to indicate their commitment to promoting physical activity, according to several criteria. Those criteria include whether a city has created inviting places to walk; whether a city has adopted a value statement affirming the importance of fitness; whether a city has sponsored at least one fitness activity; and whether a city has developed recreation areas that encourage fitness.

Arlington is committed to implementing a number of strategies for promoting physical activity, including:

- Raising awareness of active living concepts through public dialogue.
- Partnering with organizations that support physical activity (e.g., the Prairie Line Trail Organization, Sibley County Public Health).
- Continuing support and implementation of measures that increase pedestrian and bicyclist safety (e.g., Safe Routes to School program, Walkability Community Workshop Action Plan, sidewalk repair/replacement program, pedestrian and bicycle connection/continuity plan and mapping of walking and biking routes).

"Physical activity improves nearly every aspect of a person's health and contributes to better health overall for communities," Commissioner of Health Dr. Sanne Magnan said. "We encourage all cities to become *Governor's Fit Cities*."

Arlington will receive a plaque from Governor Pawlenty and may also choose to have *Governor's Fit City* signs placed on roadways entering the city.

The *Governor's Fit City* initiative is part of an overall push by Governor Pawlenty to encourage fitness. The governor declared 2005 *The Year of Fitness* in Minnesota and created the *Governor's Fitness Challenge*. More information about the *Governor's Fit City* program can be found at [www.health.state.mn.us/fitcity](http://www.health.state.mn.us/fitcity).

## YES, THAT WIND TURBINE IS NOW PRODUCING ENERGY!

There have been many questions over the past couple of months on the condition of the wind turbine. The City is excited to announce that since the middle of March when it was commissioned, the Wind Turbine has been producing energy. Here are some frequently asked questions and answers to those questions:

Who owns the turbine? While the land the turbine is on is owned by the City, the turbine itself is owned by MMPA (Minnesota Municipal Power Agency). The City has granted MMPA an easement for the turbine. MMPA is an electric consortium of eleven communities who deliver and sell electricity. Members include: Anoka, Arlington, Brownton, Buffalo, Chaska, East Grand Forks, Le Sueur, North St. Paul, Olivia, Shakopee and Winthrop. For additional information on MMPA, visit [www.mmpa.org](http://www.mmpa.org).

Who operates and maintains the wind turbine? MMPA is managed by Avant Energy out of Minneapolis. The turbine is remotely operated and maintained by Avant Energy at Avant's office. Issues are either handled by sending a signal to the controller to change an operating function, or by dispatching a maintenance service provider to the turbine to correct the problem. The City of Arlington has nothing to do with the operating functions or any maintenance issues with the turbine.

Why is the turbine not spinning? There are basically two reasons for the turbine not spinning. The most obvious one is that there is no wind or not enough wind. The motor on the turbine will engage at wind speeds of 9 mph to "yaw" the blades into the wind. The blades then start to rotate faster and at around 12 mph wind speed a generator starts to engage and produce energy to the power grid. The second reason for the turbine not spinning is that it is temporarily down for maintenance purposes.

Will the turbine work in cold weather? The turbines have been modified for operation in the Minnesota cold weather climate. Heat elements have been installed where needed. The hydraulic fluid is now able to operate in cold weather and will allow the turbine to function down to -30 degrees F. If ice develops on the blades, MMPA may elect to not run the turbine.

Is it safe to stand under the turbine while it's in operation? Yes. However, the City and MMPA discourages anyone who is not authorized from approaching the turbine.

Why have a wind turbine in town at all? There are two reasons for the turbine. The first reason is to meet State mandates for renewable energy. The State now requires that 25% of energy produced in the State must be renewable by 2025. This turbine helps to meet that requirement. The energy produced also will go directly into Arlington's power distribution system. This reduces the need for power transmission, resulting in lower costs. Power is most efficient when it can be used at the point of generation, rather than being transmitted from many miles away.

How much energy will the turbine produce? At full capacity, the turbine has the capability to produce about 160kW of energy in each hour - enough to power roughly 107 residential homes. The blades will rotate twice every 1.5 seconds when operating at full capacity.

How large is the turbine? The turbine is much smaller than the turbines commonly used in wind farms. They are approximately 115 feet tall. The turbine base is 80 feet tall and the blades measure 35 feet in length.