

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)
 Renville-Sibley Sanitation (866-
 800-6244)

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.

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.

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 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.

RESIDENTIAL SALES DROP, PRICES RISE

Arlington recently received its 2010 Residential Property Sales Report from the Sibley County Assessor. There were 17 homes sold in 2010. This number decreased from 2009 when there were 25 home sales. However, the average home sales price increased from \$116,588 in 2009 to \$124,670 in 2010. This was the first year that the average home sales price increased since 2006. Information on the sales report is based off of sales from October of 2009 to September of 2010. A copy of the report can be picked up at City Hall.

CITY ASKS FOR HELP WHEN PLACING GARBAGE CANS AT THE STREET

To assist with proper street maintenance, city staff is asking that residents, when at all possible, place their garbage cans on the boulevard instead of the street. This assists the City in street sweeping and other maintenance efforts, and eliminates an obstacle for drivers. Thank you for your cooperation in this effort! Starting May 2, property owners with graveled alleyways may go back to placing their garbage cans in the alley.

CENTERPOINT ENERGY TO BE DOING WORK

The City was recently notified by CenterPoint Energy that they will be working within the community throughout the year repairing and replacing pipeline markers. According to CenterPoint Energy, line markers are used to indicate their approximate location to prevent third party damage from excavation and to provide useful information to area emergency responders. Markers can be found where a pipeline intersects a road, railway line, in areas where the pipeline is changing directions and other significant points. CenterPoint Energy is asking that markers not be tampered with or removed. In addition, CenterPoint Energy is reminding everyone that pipeline right-of-ways must be kept free from structures and other obstructions to provide access to the pipeline for maintenance and in the event of an emergency. CenterPoint is also reminding everyone not to dig, build, store, or place anything on or near the right-of-ways without first having the pipeline marked and the right of ways staked. Anytime you are planning to dig, CenterPoint asks you to call 811 to have the pipelines marked with paint and flags.

City Offices will be closed on Monday, May 30 for the Memorial Day Holiday.

BUILDING/ZONING PERMITS NEEDED

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



With the spring construction season upon us, 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. Roofing, siding, decks, windows/doors, additions, basement finish, remodels, plumbing & heating are all jobs that need a permit and are to be done by a licensed contractor. Permits are not required for cosmetic improvements such as painting, carpeting, kitchen cabinets, floor covering and normal maintenance or repairs without structural changes. 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 new construction, as well as projects such as an addition, patio, deck, shed, fence or sidewalk/driveway need to have the zoning checked before any work can be done, so please allow enough time for the permit process before your intended start date for a project. 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 320-226-5189) and the zoning administrator is Cynthia Smith-Strack of MDG (contact city offices).

A REMINDER ON "PUBLIC NUISANCES"

With the spring and summer months upon us and people out and about, complaints on public nuisance problems become a bigger concern for residents and their neighborhood. Recently the Arlington Police Department conducted a "Spring Clean Up" sweep throughout town to identify violators of public nuisances. From the sweep, letters were sent to property owners notifying them of the violation and asking them to correct the situation. City Ordinances 126, 184 and 195 all deal with nuisances. The public should know these ordinances to avoid public nuisance complaints. Ordinance 126 addresses the storage of property in open yard areas and states that no used furniture, appliances, inoperable equipment, garbage, or other refuse shall be kept outside of an enclosed building or garbage disposal container. Residents should also be aware of the fact that during construction or repair of property, building materials shall be stacked or stored in a neat and orderly fashion, and in a manner so as to avoid presenting any danger to the general public. Refuse building materials shall be neatly piled or stored in garbage disposal containers. All building materials and refuse shall be cleared from the construction project no later than 90 days after the completion of the construction or repair. Ordinance 184 regulates vehicle parking and the parking of all-terrain, off-road, off-highway vehicles and snowmobiles and states that no vehicles may be parked or stored on the premises which are inoperable or unlicensed, unless such vehicles are kept in a fully enclosed structure or fully enclosed licensed trailer, so that no part of the vehicle can be viewed in public. No vehicles may be parked or stored on the premises which are advertised for sale or rent, except that one vehicle may be advertised for sale or

rent as an isolated personal transaction, and not in the ordinary course of business of sale or rent of vehicles, and such vehicle advertised for sale or rent must be operable and licensed. Ordinance 184 goes on to state that Licensed Off-Road Vehicles (ORVs), All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) and, Off-Highway Motorcycles (OHMs) shall not be parked on a street or on private property for more than 48 concurrent hours within a 7-day week time period, unless such vehicles are kept in a fully enclosed manufactured licensed trailer, so that the public can view no part of the vehicle. Car parts, accessories, tools, and other items used to work on, repair, or otherwise used for said vehicles shall also be subject to the above conditions. Snowmobiles shall not be parked in front yard of any residential property for more than 48 concurrent hours within a 7-day week time period. Ordinance 195 was put in place to control and eradicate noxious weeds, excessive growth of other weeds, and nonagricultural grasses. Ordinance 195 states that grass in excess of 12" and noxious weeds is prohibited and is considered a public nuisance. Public nuisances become more prevalent during the spring and summer months and residents should cooperate with the city to eliminate these "nuisances". Public nuisances can decrease the value of one's house, can effect the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Arlington, and takes away from the beauty of one's neighborhood or town. Taking measures to avoid these nuisances benefits everyone. While the City does its best to identify these "nuisances" in advance, most are dealt with from citizen complaints. Citizens wishing to file a complaint about a public nuisance must do so in writing for any action to take place.