

The Arlington Report

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Jim Kreft -- Mayor
Curt Reetz -- Council Member
Mike Vrklan -- Council Member
Galen Wills -- Council Member
John Griep -- Council Member
Gregg Borchert -- 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)

PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE SCHEDULED FOR COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

What do you want living, working and relaxing in Arlington post-2030 to be like? What's the same, what has changed? How did that happen? These are questions City leaders and the public have answered through a series of public meetings held as part of the City's Comprehensive Planning process. That process has culminated in a draft of the Comprehensive Plan and associated maps. The drafts are the subject of a community open house from 5 to 6:30 p.m. on Monday, November 10th at the Community Center. Everyone living, working or recreating in the Arlington area is invited and encouraged to attend. The open house will feature a presentation on the hour and half hour followed by self tours of maps and data. Comment cards and specialists will be available to answer questions regarding the Plan. Following the open house a joint meeting of various boards, committees and commissions will be convened at 6:30 p.m. At the joint meeting, members of the Comprehensive Task Force, the EDA, Park Board, Planning Commission, City Council, and all other appointed committees/commissions will have an opportunity to listen to highlights of the draft plan. If you're interested in participating but are unable to attend the open house, you can access more information at the City's website. For more information please contact the City or the comprehensive plan update facilitator, Cynthia Smith-Strack with Municipal Development Group at 888-763-4462.

"AGI WOMEN OF TODAY" TO HOST SAFETY SEMINAR

The AGI Women of Today will be hosting a Free Personal Safety Seminar with speaker LeAnn Sanderson of the Jacob Wetterling Resource Center on Friday, November 7th at 7:00 p.m. at the Arlington Haus II. A convicted sex offender has moved near the City of Arlington. LeAnn will be present to discuss personal safety tips. Come learn what that really means for you and how you can talk to your children about personal safety. Learn five simple personal safety rules that every kid, parent & community member must know.

HYDRANT FLUSHING TO TAKE PLACE

PeopleService will be flushing hydrants in the City of Arlington from November 3rd - November 14th. Residents/Businesses may experience low water pressure and/or discolored water and cloudiness during the flushing process. The water is safe to

drink and should clear up in a few days. Running tap water for a short time should alleviate the problem.

TRUTH-IN-TAXATION HEARING

Ever wonder exactly what your tax dollars went to pay for? Want to know what your City spends its money on? Why your taxes are at the rate that they are? To answer these questions, and many others, the City Council will be conducting its annual Truth-in-Taxation Hearing on Monday, December 1st at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers. The public is invited to attend the hearing to speak and to ask questions regarding next year's budget and property tax levy.

USDA OFFERING REHABILITATION AND REPAIR LOANS AND GRANTS

The USDA Rural Development Agency is informing rural communities on one of their many programs offered by Rural Development. The purpose of the program is to help very-low income households, rehabilitate and improve dwellings in rural areas. USDA Rural Development's Repair and Rehabilitation loans can be used for many purposes including:

- Updating and purchasing new central heating systems
- Replacing and adding insulation
- Replacing doors and/or windows
- Updating an electrical system
- Installing a well and/or septic system
- Repairing a foundation
- Making your home handicap accessible
- Other repairs

Fixing broken or drafty windows and outdated inefficient heating systems can help save on heating costs and keep you and your family warm. Applicants must be determined eligible based on income and other qualifications. The maximum loan assistance is \$20,000. For homeowners 62 and over who cannot repay a loan, grant funds are available. Grants are limited to elderly families (62 years or older) and can only be used to remove health or safety hazards or remodel dwellings to make them accessible to household members with disabilities. The maximum grant assistance is \$7,500. Those interested in the USDA Rehabilitation and Repair Loan and Grant program should contact the USDA Rural Development office in Austin, Minnesota at 507-437-8247, ext. 4, or visit the Minnesota USDA website at www.rurdev.usda.gov/mn.

CITY OFFICES CLOSED

City Offices will be closed on Tuesday, November 11 for the Veteran's Day Holiday. City Offices will also be closed on Thursday and Friday, November 27 and 28 for the Thanksgiving 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



A Beautiful City Growing in Unity



SNOW EMERGENCY NOTICE -- VEHICLES & TRAILERS

Although we probably don't want to admit it, the Minnesota snow season is right around the corner. Residents and business owners should remember that the City of Arlington will be hauling and plowing snow anytime there is a snowfall of two (2) inches or more. The City asks that all residents park all vehicles and trailers off the streets and avenues until they are plowed from curb to curb or they will be ticketed and towed. Vehicles that interfere with City maintenance activity, such as snow removal, may be towed to a designated area at the expense of the owner. The vehicle may be impounded until all parking fines, towing and storage charges have been paid. Unclaimed vehicles will be sold and the proceeds applied first against such fines and charges. Repeat violators will be towed without additional notice.

SNOW EMERGENCY NOTICE -- SIDEWALKS

Property owners should also remember that city ordinances require that all ice and snow must be removed from all public sidewalks within 12 hours after such snow or ice has ceased to be deposited upon such sidewalk. Failure to remove the snow or ice within 24 hours may be a cause for the City to do so itself. If the City, or an agent assigned by the City, has to remove the snow, the City will bill the property owner accordingly. Unpaid bills for snow removal will be a cause for a special assessment against the property. Also, please remember that snow and ice are not to be removed from a private property and placed on any public street.

SNOW EMERGENCY NOTICE -- BUSINESS DISTRICT PARKING

In the event of snow accumulation, vehicles are to park parallel to the street in the business district (Main Street and side streets) until such time that the entire street (curb to curb) has been cleared of snow.

SNOW EMERGENCY NOTICE -- DUMPSTERS

No dumpster shall be placed in the public right-of-way during the winter snow season, which is defined as the period from November 1 to the next following April 1.

SNOWMOBILE & ATV OPERATORS NOTICE

Snowmobile and ATV operators should be aware that city ordinance requires you to use public roadways/streets or alleys by the most direct route when entering or leaving town.

Snowmobiles and ATVs are not allowed to be operated on sidewalks or boulevards, nor are they to be operated on private property without prior consent of the owner. Also, city ordinance prohibits the use of snowmobiles and ATVs on any cemetery land or city park/recreation area. Speed is not to exceed 15 miles per hour within city limits. Also, please be aware that the TC&W Railroad, Minnesota Prairie Line, and Minnesota Valley Rail Authority prohibit snowmobiles and ATVs to operate on or traverse its property.

“ONE VOTE” — YOUR VOTE DOES COUNT!

In regards to the future of our City, State and Nation, the upcoming elections on November 4th is important for all eligible voters. The decisions you make on November 4th will have a lasting outcome on what takes place in the near future and for generations to come. No matter where you stand on the issues facing the City of Arlington, the State of Minnesota and the United States, voters need to know it is important that they exercise the enormous power of their constitutional right to vote.

Voting is a privilege and people need to understand that it is not granted to everyone. Most people throughout the world do not get to vote for people to represent them and make decisions for them in their government. But if voting is such a wonderful tool to selecting who leads our City, State and Nation, why do so few vote? The United States has one of the lowest voter turnout rates in the world (for free voting nations) at about 50% annually. The 2006 Elections saw only 44% of eligible voters (60% in Minnesota). The 2004 Presidential Election saw the highest voter turnout rate since 1968, but there was still only 55% of eligible voters who voted (78% in Minnesota). In 2000, only 51% (although Minnesota had the highest rate at 68.8%) of eligible voters in America voted. During the 1996 Presidential Election, only 49% of eligible voters exercised their right to vote. Can you image the effects on America with a voter turnout rate of 90%-95%?

Many citizens do not vote because they believe their one vote isn't going to make a difference. Quite the contrary. California, Idaho, Texas and Washington were all admitted to the union by just one

single vote. Rutherford B. Hayes and Thomas Jefferson were elected President by just one single Electoral College vote. The Thomas Jefferson vote prevented Aaron Burr, who would later be charged with treason, from becoming President. President George W. Bush received 271 Electoral College votes in 2000, one more than needed to win. In 1845, President Andrew Johnson's impeachment was defeated by just one vote. In 1920, women in the United States gained the right to vote by just one single vote when Tennessee become the 36th State to adopt the 19th Amendment. John F. Kennedy's margin of victory over Richard Nixon in the 1960 Presidential Election was less than one vote per precinct in four states (Illinois, Missouri, New Jersey and Texas). In 1839, Marcus Morton was elected governor of Massachusetts by one vote. So..., do you still think your one vote does not count?

To exercise your free right, please remember to vote at the upcoming election on Tuesday, November 4th. The polls will open at 7:00 a.m. and will close at 8:00 p.m. For the City of Arlington and Arlington Township residents, voting will be conducted in the Arlington Community Center, 204 Shamrock Drive. For as Louis L'Amour stated, "To make democracy work, we must be a nation of participants, not simply observers. One who does not vote, has no right to complain".

For more information on elections and voting, visit the Minnesota Secretary of State's website at www.sos.state.mn.us or contact Arlington City Offices.