

# 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. Asst.  
 Jennifer Strack -- 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  
 PeopleService -- 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)

## 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 5 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at the Community Center. City staff will go through a detailed report on next year's proposed revenues and expenses. As it stands now, the proposed levy for 2012 is expected to increase by 5%. City staff will explain the reason behind the proposed increase and will touch on how changes to the Market Value Homestead Credit will affect property owners. The public is invited to attend the hearing to speak and to ask questions regarding next year's budget and property tax levy. Can't attend the meeting and have questions on next year's budget? Contact the City Administrator at 964-2378. Written comments may also be sent to the City Administrator at City Hall.

## CITY WELCOMES NEW EMPLOYEE

The City of Arlington welcomes Jennifer Strack to our staff as the new Community Center Coordinator/Office Assistant. Jennifer began her duties with the City on October 5. Jennifer is joining the City of Arlington as Lana Woehler's replacement who is retiring from the City after over 16 years of service. Lana's last day with the City is November 1. Please welcome Jennifer as you see her while you're visiting City Hall. The City of Arlington would also like to extend their sincerest "Thank You!" to Lana Woehler for her years of service.

## CITY SCHEDULED TO BEGIN PROCESS OF ELECTRICAL METER CHANGE OUTS

Back in June of this year, the City Council authorized city staff to begin the process of replacing electrical meters city-wide with current technology. At an estimated cost of \$100,000, the City will replace all of the current electrical meters with automatic reading capabilities. The purpose of the upgrade is to ensure accurate measurement of electrical usage. Most meters have a lifespan of 20-25 years and can slow down or stop as they age. The new meters will be fitted with a radio device that will allow utility workers to get meter readings using walk-by or drive-by reading technology. The new meters will allow for a more speedier and accurate way to measure electrical consumption. The City has hired Chapman Metering of Avoca,

Iowa to perform the meter change outs. Many of the large, 3-phase commercial users will see their meters changed out during the months of November and December, with residential meters likely being replaced in 2012. The change out of electrical meters will coincide with the current schedule the City has been on, which began in 2005, to eventually change out all water meters to the current technology of automated meter reading. The City hopes to have all water and electrical meters within its system updated to current technology by 2015.

## 2011 SIBLEY COUNTY CITY TAX RANKINGS

1) Winthrop	61.65% (tax rate)
2) <i>Arlington</i>	73.00%
3) Gaylord	82.00%
4) New Auburn	111.22%
5) Green Isle	130.42%
6) Gibbon	142.41%
7) Henderson	144.06%

The tax rate percentage is determined by taking a city's tax levy and dividing it by its local tax capacity. (Arlington = \$740,732 levy / \$1,014,728 tax capacity) Want to determine the City's tax portion on your property tax statement? Take your property market value (home value), times your property class rate (1% for homes under \$500,000, 1.5% for businesses under \$150,000 or 2% over \$150,000), times your city tax rate (.7300).

## FIRE HYDRANT FLUSHING EXTENDED

Fire hydrant flushing is being extended through Friday, November 4. Residents may experience low water pressure and/or discolored water during this period. If you get discolored water, please run your water for a short period of time, this should clear the lines within your home. If problems persist, please contact City Hall and we will have PeopleService follow up on it.

## STREET SWEEPING TO END

Fall street sweeping will likely end during the first couple weeks of November. Residents are reminded not to discharge leaves or lawn clippings/debris onto city streets. Leaves, lawn clippings and/or debris that are discharged onto city streets eventually wash into the storm sewers and cause them to clog. The cleaning of storm sewers can be time consuming and costly for the City. Residents are encouraged to take their leaves, grass clippings or debris to the City's compost site.

## CITY OFFICES CLOSED

City Offices will be closed on Friday, November 11 for the Veterans Day Holiday. City Offices will also be closed on Thursday and Friday, November 24 & 25 for the Thanksgiving Holiday.

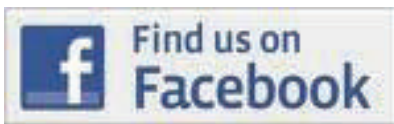
## City of Arlington, Sibley County

Contact us at:  
204 Shamrock Drive  
Arlington, MN 55307

Phone: 507-964-2378  
Fax: 507-964-5973  
E-mail: [cityhall@arlingtonmn.com](mailto:cityhall@arlingtonmn.com)  
Website: [www.arlingtonmn.com](http://www.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 plowing and hauling 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.

### 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.

### 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.

### OTHER REMINDERS ON SNOW REMOVAL

The City would also like to remind residents that it is illegal to remove snow/ice from private property and deposit it upon a public street in such a manner as to cause a hazard to travel, without proper arrangements for the immediate removal thereof. Also, no garbage dumpster shall be placed in the public right-of-way during the winter snow season (November 1 - April 1).

## WHATEVER HAPPENED WITH THAT GARBAGE SURVEY?

As you may or may not recall, back in February of this past year the City sent you a survey on garbage haulers within the city. The purpose of the survey was to gather additional information and opinions from the public so the Council could make an informed decision on whether or not they wanted to pursue the option of going with one solid waste carrier in the City. Here are the results of that survey. A total of 830 surveys were mailed out with 229 (28%) being returned. Of the respondents, 60% used Waste Management, 23% used Renville-Sibley, 14% used TCW (which has since been bought out by Waste Management), and 1% used Gaylord Sanitation. 2% of the respondents did not list who their waste hauler provider was. One of the questions in the survey asked whether or not the public was interested in going with a one waste hauler system. Of the respondents, 76 said they were interested; 76 said they were not, 66 were not sure; and 11 did not provide a response. The interesting finding of the question was that it was answered differently by customers of certain waste haulers. Customers of Waste Management appeared to be more willing to look at the option of going with one waste hauler, while customers of Renville-Sibley and TCW preferred that the City not look at going with the option of a one waste hauler system. The results of the survey showed that there are three basic sizes of garbage cans used by the respondents. Those sizes are a 30 gallon can, a 60 gallon can, and a 90 gallon can. Due to past waste haulers in the city, some respondents had garbage can sizes of 35 gallons, 65 gallons,

and 96 gallons. Due to the minimum amount of those sized cans, they were lumped together with the 30, 60, and 90 gallon sized cans. One of the more interesting findings of the survey had to deal with the cost per month for garbage/recycling services. The survey actually asked respondents separate questions when it came to garbage and recycling services. About 80% of the respondents stated that they did not receive a charge for recycling and/or that the recycling charge was included in their monthly waste hauling bill. Because so few included recycling costs separate from their waste hauler costs, the total cost of recycling and waste collection was totaled together. The survey showed that each company charged a wide-variety of costs to each respondent. For instance, someone with a 30-35 gallon container may be paying as low as \$7.65/month and another customer with the same service could be paying as high as \$45/month; someone with a 60-65 gallon container may be paying as low as \$10.32/month and another customer with the same service could be paying \$55/month; and someone with a 90-96 gallon container may be paying as low as \$13.40/month and as high as \$50.55/month. The report shows that costs are all over the board for the same service and that customers with the same company may be paying twice as much for the same service as another customer. No decision was made by the City Council after reviewing the results of the survey and nothing has yet been scheduled. A full copy of the report is available at City Hall.