

# The Arlington Report

**October's Recycling Dates: October 8th & 22nd 8:00 am -11:00 am**

**ELECTED OFFICIALS**

- Rich Nagel -- Mayor
- Michelle Battcher -- Council Member
- Jim Heiland -- Council Member
- Ben Jaszewski -- Council Member
- Jennifer Nuesse -- Council Member
- Galen Wills -- Council Member

**APPOINTED OFFICIALS**

- Liza Donabauer -- Administrator
- Lisa Tesch -- Deputy Clerk
- Annie Shottliff -- Asst. Deputy Clerk
- Tony Voigt -- Maint. Supervisor
- Kirby Weckworth -- Maint. Worker
- Cory Danner -- Police Chief
- Bruce Rovinsky -- Police Officer
- Jordan Voigt -- Police Officer
- Vicki Pomplun -- Admin Coord.

**CONTRACTED SERVICES**

- Ross Arneson -- City Attorney
- Cynthia Smith-Strack -- EDA, Planning & Zoning Consultant
- Darin Haslip -- Building Inspector
- PeopleService -- Water/Wastewater
- Jason Femrite (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)
- Gaylord Sanitation (507-237-2274)

**NO ALCOHOL**

**ALCOHOL IN PARKS**

For the past few months, the City Council has engaged in fervent discussions regarding past Ordinance 295 which strictly prohibited consumption of alcohol in City parks and on public property (city streets/sidewalks/parking lots, etc.), except for permitted community events. It came to the City's attention earlier this summer, that the ongoing practice at private events within the city parks did not follow the existing ordinance. Council asked staff to research whether other cities allow consumption in city parks, and if so, how they regulate it. City Council also invited the public and the Parks Committee to provide feedback on the topic.

After several meetings, the City Council, on a 3-2 vote, adopted an amendment to Section 6 of the existing ordinance (now Ordinance #309) which reads: "The City Council may, at its own discretion, make exceptions to this section for special events sponsored by community service organizations, or a city celebration, class reunion, family reunion, company party, or other special event group activity. The City, in granting any such exception, may set such terms for the event, as it deems appropriate to protect the public property and the rights of other users of the park area." The amendment is less restrictive than the original language. This means that, if you are planning a special event at any of the City parks, and plan on having alcohol at your event, you must obtain prior approval from the City Council. If you have any questions regarding this, or any ordinance, please contact the City Office.

**GET THOSE LAWN METER READINGS IN!**

City Staff is reminding residents with lawn meters to turn in their final readings for the year so their sewer charges can be credited. Staff would also like to remind lawn meter owners to bring their meters inside and store them in a non-freezing location to prevent damage to the meter. Damaged meters will be replaced at the owner's expense.

**REMINDER ON BURNING OF LEAVES**

With the fall season upon us, ideas for getting rid of leaves begin to surface. Residents should remember that burning leaves within city limits is prohibited. Fires are only permitted within city limits as long as they are for recreational purposes.



**JETTING SEWERS**

Residents should be aware that PeopleService will be jetting sanitary sewers throughout October. During this time, residents may notice a sewer smell coming out of your drains. If you do, just run a little tap water down your drain, to refill the trap. Running tap water for a short time should alleviate all of these problems.

**PRELIMINARY TAX LEVY SET**

At its September 19<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Arlington City Council approved a 4.2% preliminary tax levy increase for 2017. The Council, in partnership with its committees, departments and staff, will work to whittle down the preliminary tax rate by December, when the Council adopts the final levy for 2017. As always, once the preliminary tax levy has been set, it cannot be increased; only decreased. The preliminary tax levy as proposed:

General Fund	\$581,204
Fire Pumper Loan	\$ 62,280
Comm. Ctr. Building Bond	\$ 59,000
2009 G.O. RF Bonds (Street & Utility)	\$ 31,400
2012 G.O. Bonds (Street & Utility)	\$ 17,100
2015 G.O. Bonds (Street & Utility)	\$ 71,312
Other Levies (Tax Abatement)	\$ 2,600
<b>TOTAL PRELIMINARY TAX LEVY</b>	<b>\$824,869</b>

**(Equivalent of \$369.41/resident)**

The proposed increase in the General fund levy reflects an increase in services and fees in a few departments, additional transfers, and anticipated health insurance premium and wage increases. The debt service portion of the preliminary levy reflects amounts sufficient to meet debt repayment requirements. The City's Truth-in-Taxation Public Hearing will be Monday, December 5th, if anyone wishes to learn more about the tax levy and total budget.

**CITY ASKS FOR HELP WHEN PLACING GARBAGE CANS FOR PICKUP**

October is a busy month for street maintenance, in particular, the sweeping up of leaves. Because of this, City Staff would like to encourage residents not to place their garbage cans in the street. Garbage cans collected at the street, should, if all possible, be placed in your driveway or within the boulevard area. This assists the City in street sweeping, snow plowing, and other maintenance efforts. Thank you for your cooperation in this effort!



**6TH ANNUAL FRIGHT NIGHT**

Join Arlington Area Chamber of Commerce for their Halloween Fright Night on Monday, October 31st from 5:30-7:00 p.m. along Main Street, from East of Highway 5 to 1st Avenue. Come dressed for Trick or Treating and get a free hot dog and a sampling of Witch's Brew. Please contact Pam Maiers at pamelarhea@outlook.com or (507) 351-8466 for more information or to volunteer.



## MAYOR NAGEL'S CORNER

### 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*



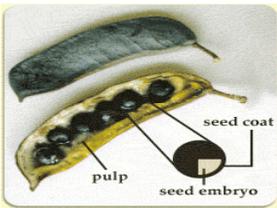
Our Shade Tree Committee is charged with the task of documenting a plan for tree removal and tree replacement on City owned property. The Shade Tree Committee is made up of community residents: Jeff Pinske, Jeff Schuetz, and Jason Ruehling. They work closely with City Administrator Liza Donabauer and Maintenance Supervisor Tony Voigt.

Thanks to Jason Ruehling for writing the following article about one of Mayor Nagel's favorite trees, the Kentucky Coffeetree.

Out of Minnesota's 52 native tree species, the Kentucky Coffeetree is undoubtedly one of the most interesting. Despite the many interesting facts regarding this tree, it is not well known by the general public, but it has come to the attention of more people lately as many nurseries have begun to offer it as an excellent alternative to other tree species which are threatened with various diseases and insects.

The Kentucky Coffeetree has several attractive qualities as an ornamental tree. It is moderately fast-growing and can attain heights of up to 75 feet. Its leaves exhibit a bright, attractive yellow color in autumn; however, it is among the earliest of our trees to drop its leaves. Its leaves are easily the largest of any tree in northern climates. It can grow up to 3 feet in length and a single leaf can contain up to 100 leaflets. Its leaf is similar to the more commonly grown honey locust, although the leaflets of the Coffeetree are larger.

Another unique and identifying feature of the Kentucky Coffeetree is its fruit. The fruit consists of a leathery pod averaging 6 inches in length and about one inch wide. The pod contains several dark and hard seeds about the size of marbles but somewhat flatter in shape. The roasted seeds were used by early pioneers as a substitute for coffee. Don't get any ideas though, today it is considered poisonous.



How did the Kentucky Coffeetree spread these large, hard seeds? Its method of seed dispersion is a mystery. It is theorized that now extinct mammoths and mastodons ate the pods and seeds and aided in spreading the tree, because there is no animal within the size range capable currently living.

The Kentucky Coffeetree is considered rare, but Arlington is in close proximity to several native stands of the tree. The closest is the area commonly known as "Popke's Woods". Populations near High Island County Park and just across the river from the City of Henderson have also been observed.

The Kentucky Coffeetree is currently only represented by a handful of specimens within Arlington city limits, but its many desirable traits make it a wise choice as a citizen's next ornamental tree.

- J. Ruehling



### FIRE PREVENTION WEEK IS OCTOBER 9-15



This year's Fire Prevention Week will be held from October 9th-15th. Fire Prevention Week is a good reminder to everyone to check and replace the batteries in their smoke detectors. Smoke alarms that are properly installed and maintained play a vital role in reducing fire injuries and deaths. During the week, the AFD will be visiting the Sibley East School for a fire safety presentation with the students. On Wednesday, October 12th the AFD will be delivering takeout orders from local businesses from 5:30-7:00 p.m. These businesses include Arlington Haus, Cenex, Double Tap Bowling Alley & Sports Bar, Godfather's and Quick Shop-Subway. When they deliver your order to your home, they will change the batteries in your smoke detectors, with a limit of two per household.

To end the week, Arlington Fire Department Relief invites you to their 1st annual Fall Block Party. The event will be held at the Arlington Fire Hall, 310 West Alden Street, with a Boneless Pork Chop Dinner running from 5:00-7:00 p.m. During the dinner the first band of the evening Rhythm Kings will be performing from 5:00-8:00 p.m. Then starting at 8:00 p.m. the band Maiden Dixie will perform. Tickets are \$20 for meal and entertainment. Dinner tickets will not be sold at the door, so please plan ahead and purchase your tickets in advance, from any active firefighter, Haggemiller Lumber, Y-Not Plumbing & Heating, and Steve's Copy Shop. In case of inclement weather, Maiden Dixie will perform at Main Street Hall, 310 West Main Street.