

The Arlington Report

2016 TO BRING CHANGES WITHIN POLICE DEPARTMENT

In 2015, the City of Arlington hired a third full-time officer. After analyzing the operations of the Police Department with three full-time officers, including Chief Danner, the City found it was relying less and less on its part-time officers and was able to cover any of its gaps in coverage through the use of the Sibley County Sheriffs Department. In reviewing the budget and the needs of the City and Police Department, the Council moved in favor of eliminating the use of part-time officers from its operational budget. As was done in the past, the Sibley County Sheriffs Department will be answering emergency calls when an Arlington officer is not on duty. This provides nearly a \$20,000 savings to the taxpayers, all while providing the coverage the community needs.

In a separate but related business matter, the City Council moved to authorize full-time employment to Community Center Coordinator Annie Shottliff, which will now allow the City to dedicate a portion of administrative staff time to provide administrative/secretarial assistance at the Police Department. Chief Danner is working to ensure the proper security measures are met before bringing administrative assistance in-house. The official transition date has not been determined. The City Council feels having administrative support in the Police Department will provide overall better service to the public.

COFFEE WITH THE MAYOR



Mayor Nagel would like to hear from YOU! Residents are invited to join Mayor Nagel for coffee and conversation the second Thursday of each month at 1:30 pm at various locations. Bring your interests, comments, concerns and praises to chat with the Mayor over a cup of joe. Join him on February 11th, at 1:30 pm, at Kick's Bakery. For more information, go to the City's website www.arlingtonmn.com or contact the City Office at (507) 964-2378.

WARMING HOUSE

As long as temperatures stay cold enough, the warming house will be open and available for ice skaters to use at the Four Seasons Park. The warming house hours are Monday—Friday from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm and Saturday/Sunday 1:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Skating is allowed at anytime, but lights and supervision are only during the posted hours.

The City Offices will be closed on Monday, February 15th in observance of the Presidents' Day holiday.



FEBRUARY COMMUNITY CENTER EVENTS

- ♥ **PHEASANTS FOREVER BANQUET**- Pheasants Forever will be hosting their 27th Anniversary Banquet on Saturday, February 13th at the Arlington Community Center. Doors open at 4:00 pm. Tickets are available from Jim Farber (507) 327-8667 .
- ♥ **SCRAPBOOKING RETREAT**- The Rock'n 80's Relay for Life Team will be hosting their annual scrapbooking retreat on Saturday, February 20th at the Arlington Community Center. There will be make and takes, door prizes, great food, and various vendors. For more information on this event, contact Jeri Odenthal (612) 418-6880 or email her at jerodenthal@gmail.com.
- ♥ **FISH FRY**- The Arlington Lions will be hosting their annual Fish Fry at the Arlington Community Center on Friday, February 26th from 11:00 am to 7:30 pm or until the fish is gone. Please join Mayor Nagel and Nancy Mathwig, at 5:00 pm, in presenting the Darwin Mathwig Award to the Liebl Family (awarded posthumously to Pat Liebl).

WATER METER REPLACEMENT IS STILL UNDERWAY

The City and PeopleService personnel are continuing the process of changing out old water meters to the newer radio-read technology meters. The City is approximately three-fourths of the way to our goal of having our entire customer base switched over. The new meters are fitted with a radio device that allow utility workers to get meter readings using a walk-by or drive-by reading technology. In turn, this allows for a speedier and more accurate way to measure consumption.

If your house still has an old water meter, please contact the City Office to schedule an appointment to have it changed out. In most cases, the meter replacement should only take 30-45 minutes and there is no cost to replace the meters. Notices are being sent out with the utility bills to the properties still needing this done. Please contact the City Office at 507-964-2378 with any questions and to schedule an appointment.

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Rich Nagel -- Mayor
Michelle Batcher -- 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
Vicki Pomplun -- Admin. Asst.
Annie Shottliff -- Community Center Coordinator
Tony Voigt -- Maint. Supervisor
Kirby Weckworth -- Maint. Worker
Cory Danner -- Police Chief
Bruce Rovinsky -- Police Officer
Jordan Voigt -- Police Officer

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)

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
Website: www.arlingtonmn.com



A Beautiful City Growing in Unity



MAYOR NAGEL'S 2016 GOALS

1. Enter the Planning and Proposal Phase for Improvements of the Arlington Public Cemetery.

There is a critical need for resurfacing the roads contained in the Arlington Public Cemetery. In addition, it would serve the needs of the community to address the rapidly growing trend of cremation and to construct a Columbarium and related landscape area at the cemetery to receive properly and with dignity, the cremated remains of our loved ones.

These projects would be budgeted for and undertaken in the year 2017. The City's Cemetery Committee will spearhead this endeavor; and together with City staff, will plan and design the project, determine estimated costs, and bring their findings to the City Council no later than November 1, 2016 for review and approval necessary for budget consideration.

2. Obtain Access to and Begin Development of Arlington's Industrial Park.

Development will consist of platting work to be done by the City's Planning and Zoning Committee. Also involved will be street construction and supplying the Industrial Park site with all required utilities. This endeavor is being accelerated due to the commitment of the Industrial Park's first occupant slated for 2017.

3. Continue to Identify Properties and Parked Vehicles that are Unsightly and in Violation of City Ordinances.

Some progress has been made on this 2015 goal; however, more still needs to be done before this area of enforcement concern can be termed a "routine" function of our City Police Department. Recently enacted Ordinance 300, dealing primarily with outdoor storage; as well as long standing Nuisance Ordinance 259, are in place and provide our Police Officers with the tools to address property and vehicle violations.

4. Create Activities and Gatherings to Foster "Community" in the City of Arlington.

I feel promoting and participating in such events as National Night Out, Music in the Park, neighborhood block parties and a farmer's market will create an atmosphere of cooperation and togetherness. I pledge to do my part in bringing city government to the citizens of Arlington via various "Coffee with the Mayor" sessions throughout the year. Please contact the City Office if you'd like me to meet with your group.

5. Attain Step 2 and Work Toward Attaining Step 3 of the GreenStep Cities Program.

Minnesota GreenStep Cities is a voluntary challenge, assistance and recognition program, developed in 2008, to help cities achieve their sustainability and quality-of-life goals. The program assists and recognizes cities that implement sustainable best practices in the area of renewable energy production, energy conservation, cleaner air, cleaner water, local food production, bikeable/walkable communities and more. A city completes recommended actions, from a list of 29 best practices, with a focus on cost savings and energy use reduction, as well as encouragement of civic innovation. Arlington has been recognized as a Step 1 level community and with the continued energy and commitment of City Administrator Donabauer, is near Step 2 attainment.

6. Inventory the City Tree Population and Formulate a Replanting Plan.

With the removal of a significant number of diseased boulevard trees in recent years, I feel that it is crucial that our Maintenance Staff, aided by the City Shade Tree Committee, prepare a documented plan for tree removal and replacement. Said plan would identify by location, standing trees still in need of removal, as well as outlining an overall plan of tree replacement throughout the City.

7. Complete a City-Wide Inventory of All Traffic Control Signs and Street Signs.

Per State requirements, the City of Arlington adopted a Sign Retroreflectivity Evaluation and Maintenance Policy in 2014. According to the policy, the City is required to upgrade all City traffic related signage to new ultra-reflective signs based on the inventory and level of funding available for sign maintenance. The inventory and GPS registering of sign locations and sign conditions needs to be done visually and after dark. It would be a prudent use of time to also make visual after dark inspections of all street/avenue signs throughout the City; as most street signs throughout the City are in poor condition. It is hoped that the City Maintenance Staff, with the volunteer assistance of a few of our more "senior" citizens, can accomplish this task in 2016.

-Mayor Richard Nagel

2016 PET LICENSES ARE HERE!

All pet licenses issued in 2015 will expire on March 31, 2016. According to City Ordinance 283, all domesticated pets (dogs and cats) must be licensed. Residents are encouraged to stop by the City Office before April 1st to obtain a 2016 pet license. The cost for the license before April 1st is just \$5 per pet. Residents must also provide a health certificate showing that the pet is current on its rabies vaccination. Due to the spring vaccination schedule, your pet may not be due for vaccinations until after April 1st. You should still license your pet in March to avoid the late fees. You will be permitted to bring an updated health certificate in at a later date. Licensing your pet assures that it will be taken care of and returned safely if it gets loose and is picked up by the Police Department or a neighbor. Residents should also be aware that a total of only 3 adult (includes spayed or neutered) pets are allowed per household. Also, if you have lost (ran away, gave away or died) pets within the last year, please notify the City Office so we can remove that pet from our current listing. The City will be following up on our listing of pets again this year.



Residents should also remember that pets are not permitted to run at large within City limits. Pets must either be leashed or cabled/chained, kenneled or in a fenced yard and are not allowed to roam freely.