

The Arlington Report

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Jim Kreft -- Mayor
Ben Jaszewski -- Council Member
Jennifer Nuesse -- Council Member
Curt Reetz -- Council Member
Jason Ruehling -- Council Member
Galen Wills -- Council Member

APPOINTED OFFICIALS

Liza Donabauer -- Administrator
Lisa Tesch -- Deputy Clerk
Vicki Pomplun -- Admin. Asst.
Jennifer Strack -- Community Center Coordinator
Jason Lovaas -- Maintenance Supervisor
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
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)

REMINDER TO PROPERTY OWNERS ON LAWNS AND LANDSCAPED AREAS

City Staff would like to remind property owners that City Ordinance 259 states that lawns and landscaped areas are to be cut or trimmed so that grass areas do not exceed 6 inches or more in height. If they exceed these limits, the property is considered a public nuisance and is prohibited. With the mowing season upon us, city staff is receiving more and more complaints on lawns not being properly kept. Ordinance 259 goes on to state that noxious weeds are to be controlled by physical removal or chemical treatment, and that volunteer trees or bushes are to be removed or properly trimmed. It also states that planted trees and bushes are to be properly trimmed so as to create a neat appearance, and to avoid overlapping boundary lines. Furthermore, the ordinance states that leaves, cut branches and logs are to be stored and handled in the same manner as other refuse, except that cut timber used for fireplaces may be kept and stored for use in an enclosed container or structure, or fenced off from public view. While the City does its best to identify these lawns, most properties that are in violation of Ordinance 259 are identified by public complaints. Property owners wishing to file a complaint against a property should do so by contacting the Police Department.

REBATES AVAILABLE FOR ENERGY EFFICIENT APPLIANCES

Conservation Improvement Program (CIP) rebates are available through the City of Arlington's Electrical Department. To qualify, an appliance must have a current EnergyStar rating and be in use by an electrical customer of the City of Arlington. Rebates are available for the following appliances: dishwasher (\$25), refrigerator (\$25), clothes washer (\$25), Q.I. central air conditioning (\$225-\$400 depending on SEER rating), and commercial lighting retrofit projects. Rebate requests are processed on a "first-come first-serve" basis. Funding for the rebate program is limited and any rebate requests received after the funding limit has been reached may be held-over to the following year. Stop in at the City Office for a rebate application.

City offices will be closed July 4th, 2013. Have a safe and happy Fourth of July!

CITY ADMINISTRATOR

We welcome Liza Donabauer to the City of Arlington. Liza assumed her duties as City Administrator in the beginning of June. She and her family made the move back to Minnesota from Clearwater, Kansas. She is originally from the Twin Cities and her husband, Jeremy, is originally from St. Cloud. They have two children, Summer (8) and Westin (4). The whole family is excited to be back in Minnesota.

Liza is looking forward to all the large projects that are scheduled in the near future. The "Safe Routes to School" and Prairie Line Trail are just a few on that list. Liza enjoys working in local government where citizens and individuals can make a difference. She is looking forward to meeting all the Arlington citizens, business owners, and community leaders.

POLICE DEPARTMENT—NEW LOCATION

With renovations complete, the Police Department has moved to their new location. The Emergency Services Building is now the home of the Arlington Fire Department, Arlington Area Ambulance, and the Arlington Police Department. The new address for the Police Station is 108 4th Ave NW, Arlington, MN 55307. They are planning an open house in the near future. Keep informed by "liking" them on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/Arlingtonpd>. On Facebook, they keep the citizens updated on bad weather, city ordinances, and general community updates.

REMINDER TO UPDATE ACCOUNTS

City Staff would like to remind utility account holders that they should update their account information with the City when they change personal information (name, phone number, etc.) and/or move and/or change addresses. This includes the changing of a PO Box number or the conversion of a PO Box to/from a street address. The City is also encouraging utility account holders to provide the City with a phone number, including a cell phone, which they may be reached at in the case of an expected outage or other emergency at their property. You can update your information by calling the office at 507-964-2378 or emailing cityhall@arlingtonmn.com.

MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR

The City of Arlington welcomes Jason Lovaas as the new maintenance supervisor.

OUTDOOR WARNING SIRENS

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



With the severe weather season upon us, City Staff from time to time receive phone calls from residents questioning why they can't hear the outdoor warning sirens in their home. This question always arises during the severe weather season in Minnesota. Residents should become more aware of how to protect their families from these deadly natural disasters. Awareness of the sirens and what they mean is a critical piece to gaining knowledge of the emergency incident.

So what do the outdoor warning sirens mean? There are a couple of misconceptions when it comes to outdoor sirens. One misconception is that the sirens are meant to notify residents both in their homes and outside of their homes. The truth is that outdoor warning sirens are only meant to alert persons outside of potential danger where people may not have access to media outlets such as TV, radio and NOAA weather radios. Sirens can penetrate buildings close to the siren units, but this is not the goal. DO NOT rely on indoor warning from outdoor warning sirens. Newer structures are insulated better and are more likely to keep sound out. The sirens cannot be made louder to penetrate buildings because doing so would pose a danger to the hearing of people who are outdoors. Upon hearing the siren, citizens should immediately seek shelter and tune in to a local radio or television station for information concerning the siren activation. The City's outdoor warning system is not intended to be the only means of emergency warning. For a well balanced system, the use of indoor systems are also necessary. Weather radios are the best warning system for residents indoors and for storms occurring late at night when most people are in their homes sleeping. NOAA weather radios can be purchased at most electronics stores. For more information on weather radios go to: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr/nwrrevr.htm>.

Another misconception is that the outdoor warning sirens are meant to notify residents of severe storms only. Residents should not assume that sirens are only for weather events. They may be sounded for hazardous material or chemical spills and other non-weather incidents (like a nuclear power plant incident) where the public needs rapid notification. Another reason to listen to local radio and television stations for more details. A third misconception is that the sirens are sounded for an "All Clear" signal.

Arlington does not sound an "All Clear" signal. This announcement is made only over radio or TV. If you hear a siren sound again, it means that it is not safe and you should not leave your home.

A fourth misconception is that the City of Arlington sets off the sirens in Arlington. The Sibley County Sheriff's Department has the responsibility to sound all sirens in the City of Arlington, with the Arlington Fire Department being a back up to set the sirens off. In Arlington, sirens are not sounded for all severe weather warnings that are issued. Sirens are generally sounded for storms that have rotation, tornadoes, or straight line winds that may have a history of producing damage. Testing of these sirens are done the first Wednesday of the month. The City has three emergency warning sirens within the City located at 7th Ave. NW & Main St., behind the Fire Department, and Baker Street & 4th Ave. SE.

When it comes to warning systems, residents should remember that outdoor warning sirens are a one way medium; they can only tell you something is wrong, not what is wrong or what action you need to take; you must obtain that information from other sources.

RULES REGARDING "DOOR TO DOOR" SALESMAN

Its that time of year again when residents get to deal with the conduct of peddlers, solicitors, professional fundraisers, and transient vendors.

Basically these are the technical terms for "door to door" salesman.

Arlington residents should be aware that the action of any person of going in and upon private residences in the City of Arlington, by peddlers, professional fundraisers, solicitors, and transient vendors of merchandise, not having received an advance request or invitation to do so by an owner or adult occupant of a private residence, for the purpose of direct sales or soliciting orders for the sale of goods, services, wares, produce or merchandise is a nuisance and is prohibited. Residents should be clear of the fact that the City does **not** allow "door to door" salesmen within city limits unless they have contacted the private property owner in advance and the private property owner has agreed to meet with them. There are a couple of exemptions to the City Ordinance. The ordinance does not prohibit the distribution of informational or advertising flyers or brochures on to the doorsteps or doors of private residents.

However, when distributing informational or advertising flyers, an individual is not allowed to make face to face contact, knock/ring the door/doorbell, or attempt to physically alert the property owner of such delivery of the brochure/ flyer. The ordinance also exempts individuals wishing to express their state or federal constitutional rights such as the freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom of religion and the like. This means that the City cannot prohibit individuals wishing to go door to door for religious or political purposes, including individuals going door to door for religious fundraising purposes. Also, any person making deliveries of perishable food or dairy products (i.e. Schwan's) to the customers on their established routes are exempted. Property owners are encouraged to call the Arlington Police Department or City Hall if you are confronted with a "door to door" salesman. For additional information on who is or isn't allowed to go door to door, visit the city's website at arlingtonmn.com (Ordinance 243) or contact City Hall at (507) 964-2378.