

The Arlington Report

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)

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

OCTOBER 4th-10th



This year's Fire Prevention Week will be held from October 4th-10th. 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 7th 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 QuickShop-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, an Open House will be held on Friday, October 9th from 5:00-7:00 p.m. at the Fire Hall. Come check out the Sibley County Fire Chief's Association Fire Safety House!

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!



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.

JETTING THE 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.

5TH ANNUAL FRIGHT NIGHT



Join Arlington Area Chamber of Commerce for their Halloween Fright Night on Saturday, October 31st from 5:30-7:00 p.m. along Main Street, from East of Highway 5 to 1st Avenue. Come dressed to

do Trick or Treating and get a free Hot Dog and Witch's Brew. Please contact Pam Maiers at pamelarhea@outlook.com or (507) 351-8466 for more information or to volunteer.

COMPOST SITE IS STILL OPEN

Want to get rid of those fall leaves? The City's compost site is still open 7 days a week for residents in city limits. The site is located near the wastewater treatment plant on Freedom Drive (SE corner of town). *Allowable Compost:* lawn clippings, garden compost, and leaves (no plastic bags). **No garbage or construction material is allowed at the compost site.** *Small brush pile:* No stumps or logs. For larger quantities of brush, the City will do chipping on location, at a cost. Call the City Office to get costs and to schedule for the chipping service.

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. *Recreational purposes* shall include only the cooking of food or providing heat and light for outdoor social gatherings. Only propane, charcoal bricks, or wood products may be used to fuel outdoor fires and shall be contained in an outdoor fire place, barbecue equipment, or a concrete-lined fire pit, sufficient to provide physical limitation to the spread of the fire.



OCTOBER COMMUNITY CENTER EVENTS

Sunday, Oct. 4th—Ho-Ho Shrine Breakfast 8:30 am—12:30 pm.
Thursday, Oct. 15th—Paint the Town 10:00 am—5:00 pm.
Sunday, Oct. 25th—Boy Scout Breakfast 8:00 am—12:00 pm.

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



ARLINGTON'S COLD WEATHER RULE



The Minnesota Cold Weather Rule is designated to assist people who have trouble paying their utility bills during the winter months. The Rule was issued by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (216B.097 as amended by Minnesota Laws 2001, Chapter 212, Article 4, Sec. 2). The Minnesota Cold Weather Rule applies from October 15 to April 15.

The Cold Weather Rule provides that your utility (the City) cannot disconnect your residential utility service during the winter months if the customer meets all of the following requirements:

1. Utility disconnection would affect the customer's primary heat source;
2. The Customer has declared an "inability to pay" on forms provided by the City;
3. The household income of the customer is less than 50% of the State Median Income;
4. The Customer's account is current for the billing period immediately prior to October 15, or the customer has entered into a payment schedule and is reasonably current with payments under that schedule;
5. The Customer receives referrals to energy assistance programs, weatherization conservation, or other programs likely to reduce the customer's energy bills.

To qualify for Cold Weather Rule protection, you must meet both of the following conditions:

1. Disconnection would affect your primary heat source.
2. You qualify for:
 - a. Inability to Pay Plan, or
 - b. Ten Percent Plan
 - c. Reconnection Plan

The Cold Weather Rule does not prohibit winter shut off. If you receive a disconnection notice, act promptly. Please contact the City of Arlington at 507-964-2378.

COLD WEATHER RULE OPTIONS

If you receive a notice of disconnection, the following options are available:

Inability to Pay Plan

To qualify for the Inability to Pay Plan, you must be a residential customer who:

1) Was current or reasonably on time with a payment plan as of October 15; and 2) Meets income guidelines as set by the State; and 3) is willing to make payment arrangements. If you qualify for Inability to Pay, the City of Arlington cannot disconnect your utility service between October 15 and April 15.

Ten Percent Plan

To qualify for the Ten Percent Plan you must be a residential customer who:

1) Was not current or reasonably on time with a payment plan as of October 15; and 2) Meets income guidelines set by the State; and 3) Agrees to pay the lesser of ten percent of monthly household income or the full amount of the current bill, not including arrears. If you qualify for the Ten Percent Plan and you make your required monthly payments, the City of Arlington cannot disconnect your utility service between October 15 and April 15.

Reconnection Plan

If the City of Arlington has shut off your utility service on or before October 15, you may qualify for the Reconnection Plan. To qualify, you must be a residential customer who:

1) Was not current or reasonably on time with a payment plan as of October 15; and 2) Meets income guidelines set by the State; and 3) Agrees to pay the total amount owed plus the current utility bill in monthly payments. You are not required to pay more than ten percent of your monthly household income. If you qualify for the Reconnection Plan, your electric service will be restored. If you continue to pay, we cannot disconnect your service between October 15 and April 15.

Payment Schedule Plan

The City of Arlington offers a payment schedule to residential customers of all income levels who:

1) Was current or reasonably on time with a payment plan as of October 15; and 2) Is willing to make payment arrangements. If you continue to make your payment arrangements on time, we will not disconnect your service. Failure to keep payment arrangements will result in an immediate disconnect. Under this plan, a customer may change its initial payment schedule with approval of the City of Arlington.

RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Utility Customers have rights and responsibilities under the Cold Weather Rule. These rights and responsibilities are designed to help you with winter utility bills. You must act PROMPTLY! If you choose not to assert your rights or choose not to enter into a mutually acceptable payment schedule, your service will be disconnected. Specifically, the Cold Weather Rule provides you with these options:

As a utility customer, you have the RIGHT to declare your inability to pay your utility bill. If you declare an "inability to pay", you must enter into a payment schedule with the City to maintain your electric service. You have the RIGHT to appeal any proposed disconnection by the City. You will have to provide the City with proof that you are unable to pay and were current in payments to the City on October 15. Your service will not be disconnected until the appeal is resolved. Appeals are resolved by the City Council. As a Utility Customer, you have the RESPONSIBILITY, if you prove an inability to pay, to complete an "inability to pay" form with the City. If you are receiving Energy Assistance or any form of public assistance, and can document that for us, you do not have to fill out an "inability to pay" form. However, you must still arrange a payment plan with the City. As a Utility Customer, you also have the RIGHT to a mutually acceptable payment schedule with the City. But, Utility Customers also have the RESPONSIBILITY of making payments as agreed to, or promptly notify the City on why you cannot keep the agreement. You may then request a new payment schedule that is subject to City approval. Utility Customers have the RIGHT to request that the City notify a third party if your service becomes subject to disconnection. Utility Customers also have the RESPONSIBILITY to receive budget counseling from a local energy assistance provider or other financial counseling organization.

NEED HELP PAYING?

If you are having trouble paying your utility bill, local agencies may be able to provide payment assistance. The City of Arlington recommends you call one of the following:

Minnesota Valley Action Council (Sibley County Office) at 507-327-2981, Sibley County Human Services at 507-237-4000 or Heat Share (Salvation Army) at 888-999-1568.