

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)

HYDRANT FLUSHING

PeopleService staff plan to flush hydrants within the city from October 1st through October 18th. Residents and businesses may experience low water pressure and/or discolored water and cloudiness during the flushing process. The water is safe to drink and should clear up in a few days. Running tap water for a short time should alleviate the problem.



REMINDER ON LAWN METERS

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 is also reminding 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 have to be replaced at the owner's expense.



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 out in the street if your hauling company allows it. 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, and eliminates an obstacle for drivers. Thank you for your cooperation in this effort!

NUTRITION PROGRAM

The Lutheran Social Service Nutrition Program is celebrating **40 years** of Senior Dining. On Wednesday, October 9th, at the Highland Commons Dining Room there will be games and prizes starting at 11:30am. A meal will be served beginning around noon. The meal will consist of beef tips over mashed potatoes with vegetables, fruit, and dessert. The suggested donation is \$3.85. To reserve your meal call (507) 326-3401 by October 8th.

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

This year's Fire Prevention Week will be held from October 7-11. Fire prevention week is a good reminder for everyone to check and replace batteries in their smoke detectors. Smoke alarms that are properly installed and maintained play a vital role in reducing fire

injuries and death. The Fire Department will be holding tours for students during the week. In addition, on October 9th, the AFD will be delivering takeout orders from local businesses from 5:30pm-7pm. These businesses include Arlington Haus, Cenex, Godfather's, Side Dish, Subway/Quickshop. When they deliver your order to your home, they will change batteries in smoke detectors, with a limit of two per household. An Open House will be held on Friday, October 11th from 5-7pm at the Fire Hall.

ARLI-DAZZLE REGISTRATIONS

Reminder to register your parade unit now! They are looking for units that will march/walk/dance/drive. The registration is free. Forms are available at After Burner Auto Body or the City Office. Contact Kim Schneider at After Burner with questions at (507) 964-2809. Parade will be held on Saturday, December 7th at 5:30pm. *"Probably the largest lighted holiday parade in Minnesota"*

MEMORIAL PLACED AT SPORTSMEN'S PARK

Friends and family gathered in early June to plant a tree at Sportsmen's Park in Dan Thomes' memory. In late September, a bench that was donated by Mike Korth/Midwest Playscapes, in Dan's memory, was placed not far from the tree. The bench has a inscription that reads, "In loving memory of Daniel "Buck" Thomes. May he watch over this park forever."



COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS

October 6th—10th Annual Ho Ho Area Shrine Club Breakfast, 8:30am-12:30pm, Arlington Community Center
October 15th—Tasting Luncheon/Bake Sale, sponsored by the SMC & Good Samaritan Auxiliaries, 11:30am-1pm, Arlington Community Center
October 27th—Boy Scout Fall Breakfast, 7:30am-11:30am, Arlington Community Center
October 31st—Happy Halloween!

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 or Sibley County Human Services at 507-237-4000 or Heat Share (Salvation Army) at 888-999-1568.