

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 -- Maintenance Supervisor
 Kirby Weckworth -- Maintenance Worker
 Cory Danner -- Police Chief
 Bruce Rovinsky -- 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 (888-613-2274)



CITY COUNCIL APPROVES 1.6% TAX LEVY INCREASE

At the December 15th City Council meeting, the City Council moved to increase the tax levy by 1.6%. Following approval of the levy, the City Council moved to adopt the municipal budget for 2015:

Fund	Revenues	Expenditures
General Fund	\$1,412,729	\$1,412,729
SPECIAL FUNDS		
Tax Abatement	\$2,507	\$2,531
Fire Department	\$111,036	\$111,036
Ambulance Dept.	\$241,603	\$241,603
Comm. Center	\$85,096	\$85,096
EDA Loan Fund	\$17,842	\$2,700
Rev. Loan Fund	\$16,862	\$0
Cemetery Fund	\$9,154	\$9,634
Cem. Perp. Fund	\$1,300	\$0
Park Ded. Fund	\$650	\$0
Med. Ctr. Fund	\$379,738	\$384,599
Capital Equip Fund	\$243,511	\$420,844
EDA Fund	\$300	\$0
ENTERPRISE FUNDS		
Water Fund	\$451,530	\$365,691
Arl. Sewer Fund	\$88,187	\$104,038
A-GI Sewer Fund	\$554,332	\$565,385
Electric Fund	\$1,670,744	\$1,966,101
Storm Fund	\$50,314	\$12,136
DEBT SERVICE FUNDS		
2004 Imp. Bond	\$30,862	\$114,827
2009 G.O. Bond	\$53,862	\$66,090
2012 G.O. Bond	\$53,184	\$32,077
GO Equip. Cert.	\$77,556	\$86,650
2010 Fire Cert.	\$12,202	\$33,768
2015 Fire Cert.	\$75,008	\$8,640
2004 Pub. Proj.	\$95,100	\$62,968

Contact City Hall or visit the City website for a copy of the full 2015 budget.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

Are you interested in public meetings, but are unsure of when and where they meet? If so, below is a list of the public meetings, day of the month, and time. All meetings are held in the Council Chambers at the Community Center, unless other wise noted. All meetings are subject to change, so please call the City Office to verify meeting day/time:

City Council:	1st & 3rd Monday at 6:30 pm
Planning & Zoning:	1st Thursday at 7 pm
Historical Society:	1st Monday at 10 am
Park Board:	4th Monday at 7 pm
EDA:	4th Tuesday at 6 pm
Library: * Meets @ the Pub. Library	3rd Wednesday at 5:30 pm
(Library meets quarterly in Feb., May, Sept., Nov.)	
Community Center & Shade Tree	To meet quarterly

CHRISTMAS TREE PICKUP

City Staff will be picking up Christmas trees at no cost starting Monday, December 29 through Friday, January 9. Residents are asked to place their trees in the front boulevard next to the curb. For more information please contact the City Office at (507) 964-2378.

STORM WATER RATES TO INCREASE IN 2015

As part of the Truth & Taxation Hearing and budget discussions, the Council recognizes that an increase to the Storm Water Fees is necessary in 2015. The increase is to support future improvements to the storm water system throughout the City. The City's Auditor and Financial Advisor have recommended increasing the storm water rates 100%. So for example, those residents that pay \$2/month in Storm Water Fees can expect to pay \$4/month in 2015.

NEW TREE ORDINANCE



The Council adopted Ordinance 291 which will allow for certain smaller trees to be planted within narrower corridors. Acceptable smaller trees may include crabapple, Japanese tree lilacs, hawthorn, or other species approved by the City. Such trees on smaller

boulevards/tree lawns are acceptable unless their location and presence conflict with sight lines, vehicles and pedestrians, hydrants, etc. Please contact City Hall if you have questions or need a tree permit.

HISTORY MUSEUM ON MAIN STREET

The Council adopted a resolution for the purpose of a partnership operation of a historical museum in the lower level of the Old Fire Hall building on Main Street. The Historical Society is raising funds to remodel the lower level of the building to be the home of Arlington's history. The Historical Society has drafted plans and has a few ideas on its first display.

ARE YOU SETTING YOUR NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS?

Please take ten minutes to complete the survey enclosed in this month's bill to help the City of Arlington set a few resolutions with you. We would like to get your input to best meet the current and future needs of both the City and the County. The surveys will be gathered by Sibley County who will also publish the results. Questions on the survey touch on healthy living, police/safety, community education/recreation and parks. The results will be presented to the Arlington City Council and used for future programming and planning by the Parks Committee, Community Ed/Rec Coordinator, and City/County Staff. Complete the paper survey and return it to City Hall or via survey monkey at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/HealthyArlington>.

SNOW REMINDER

Just a reminder to residents when placing your garbage cans on the curb. Please place them on the boulevard and not on, or in, the street. They are an obstacle for the snow plows and other City maintenance vehicles. Thank you.

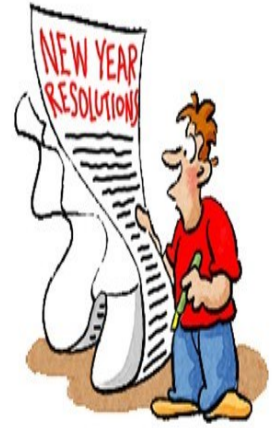
City Office will be closed on Thursday, January 1st and Monday, January 19th for the New Years, and Martin Luther King Jr. Holidays.

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION STATISTICS

Top 10 New Year's Resolutions for 2014:

1. Lose Weight.
2. Getting Organized.
3. Spend Less, Save More.
4. Enjoy life to the fullest.
5. Staying fit and healthy.
6. Learn something exciting.
7. Quit smoking.
8. Help others in their dreams.
9. Fall in love.
10. Spend more time with family.

	Percent
Americans who usually make resolutions	45%
Americans who infrequently make resolutions	17%
Americans who never make resolutions	38%
Those who are successful in achieving their resolution	8%
Those who have infrequent success	49%
Those who never succeed and fail each year	24%



City of Arlington, Sibley County

Contact us at:
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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



Nine ways to keep your New Year's Resolution:

1. Make it something you really want—Don't make it a resolution that you "should" want or what other people tell you to want. It has to fit with your own needs and values.
2. Limit your list to a number you can handle—It's best to keep 2 or 3 resolutions that you intend to keep.
3. Be specific—To be effective, resolutions and goals need to be pretty specific.
4. Automate your savings—Automating financial goals can maximize your odds for success without you having to do anything.
5. Make a plan—Rather than stating one daunting goal, create a series of smaller steps to reach it.
6. Be prepared to change some habits—One reason that resolutions fail is people don't change the habits that sabotage them.
7. Write down the goal and visualize it regularly—Writing and visualizing are effective tools for fulfilling a goal because they fix it firmly in the subconscious.
8. To tell or not to tell someone—Having someone hold you accountable is a powerful tool.
9. Forgive yourself—If you fall off the wagon, jump back on.

Above information from <http://www.statisticbrain.com/>, <http://www.bankrate.com/finance/personal-finance/9-ways-to-keep-your-new-year-s-resolutions-2.aspx>



WINTER DRIVING TIPS

Be Able to See and Be Seen—Clean frost and snow off all windows, mirrors, lights and reflectors. Equip your car with good wiper blades and keep an ample supply of windshield washer fluid.

Get a Feel for the Road—When you first start out, accelerate carefully to test wheel-spin and brake gently to test skidding.

Be Gentle—Use the brakes slowly to maintain control of your vehicle. Fast acceleration can make wheels spin on ice and snow. Brake with a gentle pumping action. Stepping too hard on the pedal will lock the brakes and cause loss of steering control.

Increase Your Following Distance—Ice or snow can multiply your stopping distance up to ten times.

MAKING A WINTER DRIVING SURVIVAL KIT

Use an empty three-pound coffee can or any similar container with a plastic cover to store the following items:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Small candles and matches | Pencil and paper |
| Small, sharp knife and plastic spoons | Safety pins |
| Red bandana or cloth | Whistle |
| Large, plastic garbage bag | Snacks |
| Plastic flashlight and batteries | Cell phone charger |

Reverse batteries in the flashlight to avoid accidental switching and burnout. Warm batteries before using them. Store safety items in the passenger compartment when severe weather threatens, in case the trunk is jammed or frozen shut. *Information from the Minnesota Department of Public Safety.*

TIPS TO GET YOUR HOUSEHOLD WINTER READY

- ◆ If your ceiling fan has a reverse switch, use it to run the fan's blades in a clockwise direction after you turn on your heat. Energy Star says the fan will produce an updraft and push down into the room heated air from the ceiling (remember, hot air rises).
 - ◆ Hit the roof—or at least scan it closely with binoculars. Look for damaged, loose or missing shingles that may leak during winter's storms or from melting snow.
 - ◆ Caulk around windows and doors—if the gaps between siding and window or door frames are bigger than the width of a nickel, you need to reapply exterior caulk.
 - ◆ Clean your gutters— If your gutters are full of detritus, water can back up against the house and damage roofing, siding and wood trim -- plus cause leaks and ice dams.
 - ◆ Turn off exterior faucets— Un-drained water in pipes can freeze, which will cause pipes to burst as the ice expands. Start by disconnecting all garden hoses and draining the water that remains in faucets.
 - ◆ Don't Prune Trees or Shrubs Until Late-Winter—horticulturalists advise waiting to prune until late winter for most plants, when they've been long dormant and just before spring growth begins.
- Source: <http://www.kiplinger.com/slideshow/real-estate/T029-S001-12-ways-to-prepare-your-home-for-winter/index.html#vZ2rPSzwmlUtHWqP.99>*



JANUARY COMMUNITY EVENTS

CUB SCOUTS CHILI FEED

The 12th Annual Dad's Belgian Waffle Breakfast sponsored by the Arlington Lion's has changed this year to the Cub Scouts Chili Feed. Chili, soup and dessert will be served. It will be held on Sunday, January 11 at the Arlington Community Center, from 11am-1:30pm. Proceeds will go to the local Cub Scouts. Tickets are \$6.00 at the door, children 3 and under are free.

ARLINGTON FIRE DEPARTMENT DANCE JANUARY 31st

The Arlington Fire Department will be hosting their annual dance on Saturday, January 31 at the Arlington Community Center. A change to this year's event, there *will not* be a dinner served prior to the dance. The dance will feature the Deep Fried Tweeters on stage from 7 pm—11 pm. Dance tickets are \$5.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FISH BOIL

The Knights of Columbus, St. Arthur's Council #10172, will be holding their 20th annual 'all you care to eat' Fish Boil at the Arlington Community Center on Friday, January 16 from 4:30 pm—8:00 pm. Tickets are available at Brau Motors, Lensing Insurance, Thomes Brothers Hardware, and Y-Not Plumbing and Heating. A donation of \$10 (in advance) \$11 (at door) for adults, children over 6 are \$5, and under 6 are free.