

The Arlington Report

December's Recycling Dates: December 9th & 23rd 8:00 am -11:00 am

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Rich Nagel -- Mayor
Michelle Battcher -- Council Member
Adam Cowell -- Council Member
Tom Hatlestad -- Council Member
Jim Heiland -- Council Member
Ben Jaszewski -- Council Member

APPOINTED OFFICIALS

Pat Melvin -- City Administrator
Lisa Tesch -- Deputy Clerk
Annie Willmsen -- Asst. Deputy Clerk
Kirby Weckworth -- Maint. Supervisor
Michael Willmsen -- Maint. Worker
John Petterson -- Police Chief
Scott Sandquist -- Police Officer
Sara Jancoski -- Police Officer
Vicki Pomplun -- Admin Coord.

CONTRACTED SERVICES

Ross Arneson -- City Attorney
Holly Kreft -- EDA Consultant
Cynthia Smith-Strack -- 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 (507-
834-6168)
Gaylord Sanitation (507-237-2274)

LEAD IN YOUR DRINKING WATER?

Recently ten homes in our community had their household drinking water tested for lead and copper, and the testing was conducted under rules adopted by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. However, a few of the samples that were taken used improper sampling techniques, and therefore the City does not believe that the results accurately reflect the water supply system. As a result, more than ten percent of the homes tested, were above the federal action level for lead in drinking water. The City has undertaken the required corrective actions of public notification and an on-going education program, as well as increased testing requirements.

In promoting public awareness, we've included the enclosed brochure *Important Information about Lead in your Drinking Water*. The brochure provides information on the potential health effects, possible sources of lead in your drinking water, and simple steps to take to protect yourself from lead exposure.

RESIDENT HOUSE WATCH PROGRAM



Are you going away for the holidays or going on vacation this winter? Would you feel better knowing someone is watching over your house when you are gone? Now you can take that stress out of your vacation with the help of the Arlington Police Department. If you're interested, contact the APD at (507) 964-5200 for more information or go to the City's website to print out the application form. Please return completed forms to the Police Department at 108 4th Ave NW.

COMPOST SITE

The City is concerned with the growing amount of trash and non-compost materials that are being dropped off at the compost site in the southeast corner of town. The City Council is asking that users please follow the signage located at the compost site and report any unauthorized dumping. Staff has placed surveillance equipment on site in hopes to minimize the non-compliant waste that continues to occur. The site should only be used for grass clippings, garden vegetation, leaves, wood chips and tree & shrubbery limbs.

NEW POLICE OFFICER

The City would like to extend a warm welcome to our newest police officer, Sara Jancoski, who starts her duties on Monday, December 4th.

CLEAN ENERGY CHOICE



Clean Energy Choice provides Arlington electric customers with the opportunity to have 100% of their electricity come from environmentally friendly, renewable sources. This program supports meeting customer demand for more renewable energy and gives our customers another choice regarding their electric supply.

Business Customers: By participating in the program, your business is committing to increase its renewable energy supply from 17% to 100%. All business owners who sign up for the program will be recognized with a certificate and a window decal. The cost is less than \$0.001 per kWh above regular retail rates.

Residential Customers: The program has a low fixed-cost monthly charge of just \$3 for 100% renewable energy, \$2 for 75% renewable energy, or \$1 for 50% renewable energy.

Customers can get more information or to sign up by contacting the City of Arlington at (507) 964-2378.

SKATING/WARMING HOUSE



Sibley East Community Education is seeking individuals to be a skating rink attendant in Arlington. Hours are after school, evenings and weekends during the months of December through February (weather permitting). Applications can be picked up at either the Arlington or Gaylord School Offices or call the Community Education Office at 507-237-3322.

Watch the local newspaper for information on the hours for the warming house. The making of ice and hours for the warming house are weather and staff dependent.

GOOD SAMARITAN SOCIETY

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

The Arlington Good Samaritan Society would like to welcome the public to their Holiday Open House on Thursday, December 14th from 5-7 pm. Join them for food, entertainment & fun. Please RSVP to Kari at (507) 964-1384 or krose3@goodsam.com.

CITY OFFICES CLOSED

The City Offices will be closing at noon on Friday, December 22nd and will be closed all day on Monday, December 25th for the Christmas holiday. The Offices will also be closed on Monday, January 1st for the New Year's Day holiday.



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



WINTER ENERGY SAVING TIPS



* **Take advantage of the sun-** Open curtains on your south-facing windows during the day to allow sunlight to naturally heat your home, and close them at night to reduce the chill you may feel from cold windows.

* **Cover drafty windows-** Use a heavy-duty, clear plastic sheet on a frame or tape clear plastic film to the inside of your window frames during the cold winter months. Make sure the plastic is sealed tightly to the frame to help reduce infiltration.

* **Adjust the temperature-** When you are home and awake, set your thermostat as low as is comfortable. When you are asleep or out of the house, for eight hours or more, turn your thermostat down 10° to 15° and save around 10% a year on your heating and cooling bills.

* **Lower water heating costs-** Water heating can account for 14% to 25% of the energy consumed in your home. Turn down the temperature of your water heater to the warm setting (120°F).

* **Lower holiday lighting costs-** Use light-emitting diode -- or "LED" -- holiday light strings to reduce the cost of decorating your home for the winter holidays.

Source by: <http://energy.gov/energysaver/articles/fall-and-winter-energy-saving-tips>



14 REASONS PROPERTY TAXES VARY EVERY YEAR

Many of you have recently received your proposed property tax statement for 2018. For the majority of taxpayers, the amount of taxes you will pay next year has increased. Most of you are probably wondering why? Well, there may be one or more of fourteen reasons for the increase. The reasons are as follows:

- 1) *The market value of a property may change.* Each property is assessed at least once every five years and a sales ratio study is done to determine if the property is assessed properly. Additions and improvements made to ones home can increase its market value also.
- 2) *The market value of other properties in your taxing district may change, shifting taxes from one property to another.* New construction in a taxing district increases the tax base and will affect the district's tax rate.
- 3) *The State general property tax may change.*
- 4) *The City budget and levy may change* (most likely a reason for Arlington residents).
- 5) *The Township budget and levy may change.*
- 6) *The County budget and levy may change* (most likely a reason for Arlington residents).
- 7) *The School District's budget and levy may change* (most likely a reason for Arlington residents).
- 8) *A special district's (Watershed district, etc.) budget and levy may change.*
- 9) *Voters may have approved a school, city, township, county, or special district referendum* (most likely a reason for Arlington residents).
- 10) *Special assessments may be added to your property tax bill.* Special assessments include things like water/sewer lines, curb and gutter, and new streets.
- 11) *Federal & State mandates may have changed.* Both the State and Federal governments require local governments to provide certain services and follow certain rules. These unfunded mandates often require an increase in the cost and level of service delivery.
- 12) *Aid and revenue from the State and Federal governments may have changed.* Each year the state legislature reviews and adjusts the level of funding for a variety of aids provided to local governments including Local Governments Aid and County Program Aid. Formulas for aid may have changed.
- 13) *The State Legislature may have changed the portion of the tax base paid by different types of properties.* A change in class rates will require a change in the tax rate to raise the same amount of money.
- 14) *Other State law changes may adjust the tax base.* Fiscal disparities, personal property taxes on utility properties, limited market value, and tax increment financing are examples of laws that affect property taxes.

(Source: League of MN Cities — www.lmc.org)

SNOW NOTICE TO RESIDENTS

Vehicles and Trailers—The City of Arlington will be plowing and hauling snow anytime there is a snowfall of two (2) inches or more. We ask that all residents park all vehicle(s) and trailer(s) off the street and avenues until they are plowed curb to curb, or they will be ticketed and towed at the owner's expense.

Sidewalks— Accumulation of snow or ice on public sidewalks constitutes a public nuisance. The owner or occupant of the abutting property has 12 hours to remove snow or ice that has been deposited upon the public sidewalk. Failure to remove the snow/ice accumulation within 24 hours, will be cause for the City to remove it, and bill the property owner accordingly. It is unlawful for any person to place snow or ice from private property onto public property.

BUSINESS DISTRICT PARKING— In the event of snow accumulation during the day, all vehicles are to park PARALLEL to the street until the street is plowed from curb to curb and is clear of all snow.

Dumpsters— No dumpster or residential garbage cans are allowed in the public right-of-way during the winter season, which is defined as the period from November 1– April 1.

Snowmobiles & ATVs— City ordinance states that snowmobiles and ATVs must use public roadways, streets, or alleys by the most direct route when entering or leaving town. Speed is not to exceed 15 miles per hour within city limits.

