

The Arlington Report



February's Recycling Dates: February 11th & 25th 8:00 am -11:00 am

WE NEED YOUR HELP WITH METERS

Many households have radio read water and electric meters, but if you know your house is still read manually, this message is for you! Please help the meter readers for the rest of the winter season. The City of Arlington is asking residents to assist by clearing a path to water and electric meters. Residents that have a fenced-in yard can also assist the City by making sure snow is removed from the gate to make access to the meters easier. This will help meter readers avoid walking on snow-covered landscaping and allow them to do their job more safely and efficiently. Residents who still have older water meters are encouraged to contact the City Office to schedule an appointment to get them changed out to a radio read meter. Thank You!

2017 PET LICENSES ARE HERE!



All pet licenses issued in 2016 will expire on March 31, 2017. According to City Ordinance 283, all domesticated pets (dogs and cats) must be licensed. Residents are encouraged to stop by the City Office before April 1st to obtain a 2017 pet license. The cost for the license before April 1st is just \$5 per pet. Residents must also provide a health certificate showing that the pet is current on its rabies vaccination. Due to the spring vaccination schedule, your pet may not be due for vaccinations until after April 1st. You should still license your pet in February or March to avoid the late fees. You will be permitted to bring an updated health certificate in at a later date. Licensing your pet assures that it will be taken care of and returned safely if it gets loose and is picked up by the Police Department or a neighbor. Residents should also be aware that a total of only 3 adult (includes spayed or neutered) pets are allowed per household. Also, if you have lost (ran away, given away or passed away) pets within the last year, please notify the City Office so we can remove that pet from our current listing. The City will be following up on our listing of pets again this year.

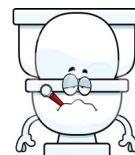
Residents should also remember that pets are not permitted to run at large within City limits. Pets must either be leashed or cabled/chained, kenneled or in a fenced yard and are not allowed to roam freely. Please remember when walking your pet in town to pick up after them.

The City Offices will be closed on Monday, February 20th in observance of the Presidents' Day holiday.

FEBRUARY COMMUNITY CENTER EVENTS

- ♥ **MEDICAL SCHOOL DELEGATION-** The Arlington City Council invites the public to attend a Special City Council Meeting on Thursday, February 2nd from 6:30 to 8:00 pm. They will host members of the Medical School Delegation, who will be presenting their observations from their recent trip to medical school facilities.
- ♥ **PHEASANTS FOREVER BANQUET-** Pheasants Forever will be hosting their 28th Anniversary Banquet on Saturday, February 11th at the Arlington Community Center. Doors open at 4:00 pm. Tickets are available from Jim Farber (507) 327-8667.
- ♥ **AARP DRIVER'S SAFETY PROGRAM-** Drivers 55 and older have an opportunity to save 10% on their auto insurance premiums. Please contact Community Education at (507) 237-3322 for further information. The next driver's safety class is Monday, February 13th, from 1:00-5:00 pm, and you must pre-register, no walk-ins allowed.
- ♥ **SCRAPBOOKING RETREAT-** The Rock'n 80's Relay for Life Team will be hosting their annual scrapbooking retreat on Saturday, February 18th at the Arlington Community Center. There will be make and takes, door prizes, great food, and various vendors. For more information on this event, contact Jeri Odenthal (612) 418-6880 or email her at jerodenthal@gmail.com.
- ♥ **FISH FRY-** The Arlington Lions will be hosting their 40th Annual Fish Fry at the Arlington Community Center on Friday, February 24th from 11:00 am to 7:30 pm or until the fish is gone. Please join Mayor Nagel and Nancy Mathwig, at 5:00 pm, in presenting the Darwin Mathwig Community Service Award.

PROTECT YOUR PIPES



It has been brought to our attention, that materials such as diapers, rags, mop heads, and personal cleansing wipes are being flushed down the toilet, causing wastewater equipment to clog up. These materials should not be flushed down the toilet as they don't break down properly. **THE ONLY ITEMS YOU SHOULD FLUSH DOWN THE TOILET ARE: bodily wastes & toilet paper.** Everything else goes in the trash. If you're already following this routine, thank you!

2017 ELECTRIC REBATES

Are you adding/replacing appliances or lighting to your home or business? 2017 Residential and Commercial energy efficient rebates are available. Contact the City Office for more information and to get rebate application form(s). Forms are also available on the City website: www.arlingtonmn.com.

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

- Liza Donabauer -- Administrator
- Lisa Tesch -- Deputy Clerk
- Annie Shottliff -- Asst. Deputy Clerk
- Tony Voigt -- Maint. Supervisor
- Kirby Weckworth -- Maint. Worker
- Vacant-- Police Chief
- Jordan Voigt -- Interim Police Chief
- Bruce Rovinsky -- 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 (866-800-6244)
- Gaylord Sanitation (507-237-2274)

MAYOR NAGEL'S 2017 GOALS

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



1. COMPLETE THE RENOVATION OF THE SENIOR CITIZENS BUILDING AT FOUR SEASONS PARK.

With the awarding of the funding grant from Lions International, and with the generous matching funds from the City of Arlington and both the Arlington and the Green Isle Lions' organizations, the remodeling project is scheduled to begin early this spring. The community can look forward to a revitalized building with new restrooms, kitchen improvements, new forced air heating and cooling system, a new ceiling surface, new lighting, new entry doors, and additional windows to allow for increased natural light. Our Senior Citizens group, which now uses the building on a weekly basis, will be relocated to another facility during the renovation project.

2. MOVE FORWARD WITH THE PROCESS OF INVENTORYING ALL TREES LOCATED ON CITY BOULEVARDS AND IN CITY PARKS.

While the preparedness training component of the Tree Inventory Program has been completed, the tree inventory itself remains to be done. With the help of the local Boy Scout Troop, the City Shade Tree Committee, and community volunteers; each tree, whether it is in a city park or along a city boulevard, will be inspected and cataloged. Some trees may not require further attention, some may need a degree of pruning, and some will indeed need to be removed. The next phase then will be implementing a replanting program to address areas that, for one reason or another, are in need of replacement of either boulevard or shade trees. The ultimate goal is to greatly increase the diversity of the City's tree population, which currently is heavily weighted toward maple and ash varieties. This program is being carried out under the guidance and funding of the University of Minnesota, Department of Forest Resources.

3. BEGIN THE CONSTRUCTION PHASE OF THE 2017 STREET AND UTILITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT.

After much research into which areas of the City should be considered for a significant street improvement project, it was decided to move forward with the area directly south of the 2015 project area. Another area of the City under consideration was the East Baker Street and East Clinton Street area, which has notable storm sewer issues. However, to develop an improvement plan for this area will take a considerable amount of engineering effort to arrive at the best solution for the noted problems. The selected project for 2017 will involve replacement of all water, storm sewer, and sanitary sewer service, as well as, work on some sidewalks, boulevard trees, curb and gutter, and complete street replacement. As in the past, we will need to be sensitive to the affected property owners' concerns relating to sidewalk and driveway work, as well as, necessary tree removal and replacement. Concurrent work on the west side of the Sibley East School project will also need to be taken into consideration.

4. EXAMINE ALL OPTIONS FOR DELIVERY OF AMBULANCE SERVICE, FIRE AND POLICE PROTECTION.

Due to currently being short staffed in our Police Department, and facing smaller than desired numbers in our Fire Department and our Ambulance Service, we are in a position to examine these areas of vital community services to determine if we can reach out to neighboring communities experiencing similar deficiencies, in an attempt to realign or share any of these services. The shortage of ambulance personnel, with availability during daytime hours in small communities such as ours, needs to be addressed with innovative changes. Similarly, with many of our firefighters being employed outside the local area during the normal work day, it becomes difficult for them to respond when a call goes out. Retention of police officers in small communities will always be an issue. We will examine any feasible means of delivering law enforcement that is in accordance with our City Charter and doesn't compromise the safety and well-being of our residents.

5. TAKE A FRESH LOOK AT ARLINGTON'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS

With the consulting assistance of recently contracted Municipal Development Group, and the expertise and energy of an experienced EDA Committee, it's time to take a look at the entire scope of our economic development efforts. I am urging our EDA Committee to focus on the following areas: selling the former TSE admin building, assistance in finalizing the access route to the SW Industrial Park, identifying the need for future housing development and the potential location(s) of such, brainstorming potential uses for the soon-to-be vacant downtown Cemstone site, and determining potential future uses for all vacant city owned property. It is imperative that business retention visits with members of our current business community routinely take place, as they are a vital asset, and deserve any assistance we can offer to retain and hopefully expand their current activity.

~Mayor Richard Nagel (rnagel@arlingtonmn.com)

FIRE HYDRANTS & STORM DRAINS

The City of Arlington and the Arlington Fire Department want to remind everyone that if there is a fire hydrant on or near your property, please take a few moments to shovel the snow away. Clearing the snow away from a hydrant increases its visibility and can save precious time when fire fighters need to hook up to the hydrant in an emergency. The City is also asking residents to help prevent street flooding and icing by clearing snow away from storm sewer catch basins. When the weather turns warmer and snow begins to melt, it's important that the runoff water is able to get into the storm sewer. If the catch basin is covered by a build-up of snow and ice, street flooding can occur. Be a good neighbor and adopt a hydrant and/or storm drain!

