

# The Arlington Report

**January's Recycling Dates: January 14th & 28th 8:00 am -11:00 am**



**COMPOST SITE TO CLOSE REST OF WINTER**

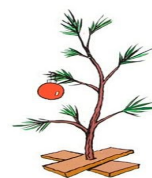


The compost site will be closed over the winter months starting January 2, 2017. The compost site has not been utilized for its proper use over the last few months, as City Staff has found furniture, kitchen garbage, mattresses and non-compost items at the site. Illegal dumping puts the City at risk of losing its permit to operate a compost site. Once the weather warms up and the snow melts, City Staff will reopen it during daylight hours.

**2017 STREET IMPROVEMENT OPEN HOUSE**

The City Council will hold an Open House at the Community Center, from 4-6 p.m. on Tuesday, January 10, 2017, for the 2017 Street Improvement Project. Earlier Engineering reports identified the areas of West Brooks, West Alden, 4<sup>th</sup> Ave NW and a portion of 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave NW (all East and South of Hwy 5) as areas that are in need of much needed improvements. The proposed improvements are to replace and improve the water supply system, storm sewer, sanitary collection system and provide an improved driving surface. Alternate alley drainage improvements and/or a water main looping area within the project area are also being discussed. As part of the City's work on a five-year budget plan, the auditor believes it is healthy for the City of Arlington to engage in a construction project every two years. The auditor recommends \$1.5 million projects, at 15-year bond terms. The Open House gives the public an opportunity to review the plans, ask questions, make comments and provide input. If you have any other questions or concerns, please contact the City Administrator.

**CHRISTMAS TREE PICKUP**



City Staff will be picking up Christmas trees at no cost starting Tuesday, December 27th through Friday, January 6th. 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.

**The City Office will be closed on Monday, January 2nd for the New Year's Holiday and Monday, January 16th for the Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday.**

**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 Shotliff -- 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)

**CITY COUNCIL APPROVES 2.5% TAX LEVY INCREASE**

At the December 19th City Council meeting, the City Council adopted its 2017 tax levy, which reflects an increase of 2.5%. Following approval of the levy, the City Council moved to adopt the municipal budget for 2017:

Fund	Revenues	Expenditures
General Fund	\$1,441,444	\$1,441,444
<b>SPECIAL FUNDS</b>		
Tax Abatement	\$2,415	\$2,408
Fire Department	\$89,953	\$113,962
Ambulance Dept.	\$282,472	\$284,531
Comm. Center	\$93,343	\$93,343
EDA Loan Fund	\$17,780	\$39,877
Rev. Loan Fund	\$10,794	\$0
Cemetery Fund	\$9,575	\$6,325
Cem. Perp. Fund	\$1,000	\$49,500
Park Ded. Fund	\$350	\$0
Med. Ctr. Fund	\$172,503	\$162,940
Capital Equip Fund	\$364,500	\$518,220
EDA Fund	\$180	\$18,000
<b>ENTERPRISE FUNDS</b>		
Water Fund	\$453,102	\$450,393
Arl. Sewer Fund	\$93,364	\$220,635
A-GI Sewer Fund	\$564,256	\$564,256
Electric Fund	\$1,585,889	\$1,767,486
Storm Fund	\$93,050	\$97,157
<b>DEBT SERVICE FUNDS</b>		
2015 G.O. Bond	\$104,951	\$104,796
2009 G.O. Bond	\$51,148	\$66,665
2012 G.O. Bond	\$30,629	\$34,520
GO Equip. Cert.	\$73,071	\$80,967
2015 Fire Cert.	\$62,580	\$59,311
2004 Pub. Proj.	\$59,221	\$63,488
2016 Ambulance	\$30,090	\$2,184

Contact City Hall or visit the City website for a copy of the full 2017 budget.

**RATE INCREASE/DECREASE TO CANCEL OUT**

As part of the Truth & Taxation Hearing and budget discussions, the City Council evaluated the rates for the utilities in order to accommodate debt payments, capital improvements, and build reserves. The result was a decrease in Water rates and an increase in the Storm Water fee, which will be reflected starting with the February 1st billing statements. Council felt strongly about the Storm Water increase having zero impact on its utility customers. Therefore, the monthly Water base rates will decrease by \$1.00 and the Storm Water fee will increase \$1.00 per month. The increase of the Storm Water fee and the decrease in the Water rate will cancel each other out, for most customers, so residents should not notice the change.

## City of Arlington, Sibley County

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Arlington, MN 55307

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E-mail: [cityhall@arlingtonmn.com](mailto:cityhall@arlingtonmn.com)  
Website: [www.arlingtonmn.com](http://www.arlingtonmn.com)






*A Beautiful City Growing in Unity*



### CLEAN ENERGY CHOICE

With Clean Energy Choice, residential customers have a choice to buy more renewable energy from the City of Arlington. What is renewable energy you ask? Renewable energy is generated from wind, solar, bioenergy and water resources. Did you know that today 17% of your home's electricity comes from renewable energy and it is required by the State of Minnesota to do so. This new program will replace the City's current Green Power program and is a revised version of the existing Clean Energy Choice program. By signing up for Clean Energy Choice, it's a quick and easy way to ensure you are increasing your renewable energy source for only a few extra dollars a month. The main benefits of the program are as follows:

- Low Cost – A fixed monthly fee of \$1 per month for 50% renewable energy,  \$2 per month for 75% renewable energy, or   \$3 per month for 100% renewable energy.

- The program and pricing is simple – the monthly fee is fixed and not based on energy usage.
- It's easy to sign up for the program—go to the website <https://www.cleanenergychoice.com/arlington/>
- Subscription is monthly and you can cancel at any time!

The Clean Energy Choice program currently is only for residential customers. MMPA is working on developing a new renewable program option for commercial and industrial customers. If you are a commercial customer currently on the Green Power Program, you will remain on that program. If you have any questions or want to sign up for Clean Energy Choice please call the City Office at (507) 964-2378.

Thank you to Galen Wills and Jennifer Nuesse for your many dedicated years on the Arlington City Council! We welcome Tom Hatlestad and Adam Cowell to the City Council. Also, a warm welcome to Holly Kreft, the City's new EDA Consultant!



### ARLINGTON COMMUNITY CENTER

The Arlington Community Center still has availability for 2017 and is the perfect venue for ALL types of events— wedding receptions, baby showers, graduations, Quinceaneras, meetings, seminars, benefits, or family reunions. To take a tour or to book a date, call the City Office at (507) 964-2378.

### KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FISH BOIL

The Knights of Columbus, St. Arthur's Council #10172, will be holding their 22nd Annual 'all you can eat' Fish Boil at the Arlington Community Center on Friday, January 20th 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 \$12 (in advance) or \$13 (at door) for adults, children 7 and older are \$6, and 6 and under are free.

### SKATING RINK AT THE FOUR SEASON'S PARK SHELTER

The skating rink is up and ready for some winter fun! The weather has cooperated to make some great ice for skating or a friendly game of hockey. The rink is open and skating is allowed any time of the day. Supervised skating will only be during the warming house hours. The warming house will be open Monday through Friday from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., Saturday and Sunday 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Hours are subject to change, if there is a private event in the Senior Building. Happy skating!



#### 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.*



#### 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.

