

The Arlington Report

August's Recycling Dates: August 10th & 24th 8:00 am -11:00 am

150th SIBLEY COUNTY FAIR JULY 31–AUGUST 4



The 150th annual Sibley County Fair will be held July 31–August 4 at the Sibley County Fairgrounds in Arlington — *The Best Little Fair in Minnesota*.

\$5,000 of script money will be given away throughout the fair, with nightly drawings Wednesday-Saturday at 10:30 pm and Sunday at 6:00 pm. There will be musical entertainment every day, events in the grandstands, the 9/11 Never Forget Mobile Exhibit and fireworks on Friday night. For more information head to their website <http://www.sibleycountyfair.com/> or check out their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/SibleyCountyFair/>.

2020 CENSUS WORKERS NEEDED



The 2020 Census is right around the corner and they need your help! Temporary jobs are available, including census takers, recruiting assistants, office staff, and supervisory staff. To be eligible, you must be at least 18 years old, have a valid Social Security number, and be a U.S. citizen. These positions provide the perfect opportunity to earn some extra income while helping your community. The results of the 2020 Census will help determine each state's representation in Congress, as well as how certain funds are spent for schools, hospitals, roads, and more. This is your chance to play a part in history and help ensure that everyone in your community is counted! Apply online at www.2020census.gov/en. For more information or need help applying, please call 855-562-2020.

NOTICE TO ALL COMMUNITY MEMBERS

The Cities of Arlington and Gaylord, together with their Volunteer Ambulance Services, would like to invite all community, township members, and interested parties to a public information Open House on Monday, August 26th 7:00 pm at the Arlington Community Center. This public meeting is to present information about the “proposed merger” of the two ambulance services. We will be discussing how the merger will work, why the merger is needed, and the added benefits to each community. Please mark your calendars and attend this public information meeting, as any and all public input will be considered. If you are unable to attend, but still have questions you would like answered, please feel free to contact Pat Melvin, Arlington City Administrator at 507-964-2378. **Your attendance would be greatly appreciated!**



SPRINKLER WATER READINGS

A reminder to residents that have lawn meters to turn in your monthly readings. Your sewer usage will be credited the next month for the usage that was used through the lawn meter. If you do not have a meter and would like to purchase one, please contact the City Office.



ARLINGTON'S PARKS

The Arlington park shelters and the Lions Center at Four Seasons Park are available for private events, but are starting to book up for the summer. If you are interested in hosting an event at the Lions Center (for a rental fee), or any of the shelters at Four Seasons Park, Sportsman's Park, Frenzel Park, Fairview Park, or the Gazebo at Memorial Park, please contact the City Office at (507) 964-2378 for inquiries or to book a date.

ARLINGTON NIGHT OUT

Don't forget about Arlington Night Out on Tuesday, August 6th from 5-7:30 pm at Four Seasons Park. Come out for the free event: Food, Splash Pad, Prizes & Music.

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
Laura Dykhoff -- Admin. Asst.
Kirby Weekworth -- Maint. Supervisor
Michael Willmsen -- Maint. Worker
John Petterson -- Police Chief
Sara Jancoski -- Police Officer
James Noxon -- Police Officer
Bailey Holasek -- Police Officer
Vicki Pomplun -- PD Admin Asst.

CONTRACTED SERVICES

Ross Arneson -- City Attorney
Amy Newsom -- 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
Police Dept.: 964-5200
Library: 964-2490
Hospital: 964-2271
S.E. School: 964-2292
Post Office: 964-5503

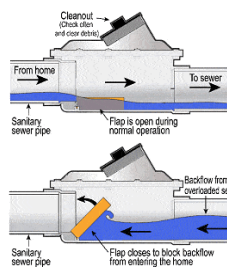
OTHER SERVICES

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 Sanit. (507- 834-6168)
Gaylord Sanitation (507-237-2274)

WOULD A BACKFLOW PREVENTER HELP?

The City empathizes with residents who experienced storm water or even sewage in their homes due to the heavy rain storm in early July.

Unfortunately, when torrential rains occur, many circumstances are beyond the City's control. While the City continues to do everything it can to prevent this from recurring, we want to make you aware of some options that are available to individual property owners. These can include the installation of a backflow preventer or slicer valve into your sanitary sewer line. Both kinds of valves would require



installation by a plumber, and can typically be done for less than \$500, depending on how your lines are situated. A backflow preventer valve would automatically shut down upon detection of flow coming back up through the line (as illustrated). A slicer valve requires your presence during an emergency, to manually close a steel panel in the valve. If interested in these options, or other possible solutions, please contact a plumber for more information.

MEETINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

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



In the past there has been some confusion on the types of meetings a City Council can hold. The Arlington City Council, and its committees and boards, are governed by the Minnesota Open Meeting Law. One might also hear the word quorum, which means the minimum number of members of an assembly or society that must be present at any of its meetings to make the proceedings of that meeting valid. The Open Meeting Law serves three purposes:

- 1) The law prohibits actions being taken at a secret meeting where it is impossible for the interested public to become fully informed about a public board's decision or to detect improper influences.
- 2) It assures the public's right to be informed.
- 3) The law affords the public an opportunity to present its views to the public body.

In general, there are three types of meetings that a City Council conducts: open meetings, closed meetings, and public hearings.

Open Meetings— Most meetings of the Arlington City Council are open to the public. There are two different types of open meetings, regular and special. The Arlington City Council conducts two regular open meetings a month; the 1st and 3rd Mondays at 6:30 pm. These regular meetings are used to discuss, decide or receive information on matters over which the council has authority. Simply, the day to day policy decisions of the City are decided at the semi-monthly regular meetings.



A Beautiful City Growing in Unity



Special meetings are meetings held at times or places that are different from the regular scheduled meetings. These are often scheduled to deal with specific items that need to be addressed before the next regular meeting. Any person may observe a regular or special meeting of the Council. However, while anyone can attend an open meeting, they are not guaranteed the opportunity to speak or otherwise participate in any discussion at the meeting. Generally, open meetings provide the opportunity for the public to witness the actions of the City Council. On certain occasions, the Mayor or City Council can recognize someone from the public to comment on a specific action item. The City Council does provide at their regular meetings, a "Citizens Addressing the Council" portion of the agenda for residents to comment on non-agenda items. Citizens looking for a specific action from the Council should ask to be placed on the agenda prior to the meeting. Please contact the City Office several days in advance to request time on the next agenda.

Closed Meetings— Under certain circumstances, some meetings (or a portion of a meeting) of the City Council may or must be closed to the public. Meetings that *may* be closed revolve around labor negotiations, performance evaluations, and attorney-client privileges. Meetings that *must* be closed are meetings that deal with discussion on data that is considered private under state law, and for preliminary consideration of allegations or charges against an individual subject to the public body's authority. In the case that the City is dealing with an allegation or charge against an individual; the individual in question may ask, and the City must grant, that the closed meeting be made open to the public for *viewing* purposes.

Public Hearings— A public hearing is a meeting that is held where members of the public get to express their opinions on a particular item. The Council is there to regulate the hearing and make sure that people who want to speak on the issue get the opportunity. The council does not deliberate or discuss matters at the public hearing, but instead listen in order to formulate an opinion on the matter at hand. Certain issues like special assessments and zoning/ordinance amendments require, by law, a public hearing. From time to time, the City Council will hold a public hearing even if they are not required to do so by law, for the purpose of allowing the public to comment on a specific issue.

AUGUST 1st NEW LAWS TAKING EFFECT



HANDS FREE-Minnesota will join a growing list of states with prohibitions on holding cellphones and other wireless communication devices while behind the wheel. The new law broadens the state's existing ban on texting while driving, barring drivers from holding a cellphone or other wireless communication device while operating a motor vehicle that is in motion on a street or highway. Drivers will be required to use hands-free technology when making calls, sending messages, or accessing content (including audio and navigation software) behind the wheel.

SLOWPOLK LANE- Part of this new transportation law clarifies requirements on operating slow vehicles on the right side of the road and moving out of the left-most lane to allow others to pass. If a roadway has more than one lane in each direction, a slower driving person must now move out of the left-most lane to allow another vehicle to pass, when practicable.

MARITAL RAPE- The effect of this new law is to remove the so-called "marital rape exception" or "voluntary relationship defense" and permit the prosecution of individuals accused of committing sexual crimes against a spouse or a long-time partner. The law will repeal language that a person does not commit criminal sexual conduct if the conduct is between "adults cohabiting in an ongoing voluntary sexual relationship at the time of the alleged offense, or if the complainant is the legal spouse, unless the couple is living apart and one of them has filed for legal separation or dissolution of the marriage." This change took effect July 1, 2019.

Source: <https://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/hinfo/leginfo/0819nrelease.pdf>



AUGUST COMMUNITY CENTER EVENTS

- Mon. August 5- City Council meeting — 6:30 pm
- Wed. August 7- Ben Winchester presentation — 5:30 pm
- Thurs. August 15- KMC Dance Registration from 5:00 pm—7:30 pm
- Mon. August 19- City Council meeting — 6:30 pm
- Tues. August 20- Bloodmobile from 12:30 pm—6:30 pm
- Mon. August 26- Lion's Club Pillow Fluff from 7:00 am—3:00 pm
- Mon. August 26- Ambulance Merger Meeting — 7:00 pm

FARMERS MARKET AUGUST ACTIVITIES

Every Monday evening

4:00-6:30 pm @ Comm. Ctr. parking lot

- ◆ 5- Women's Day, Home-based business, HOP.
- ◆ 12- Canning Pickles Demo, please RSVP to Market Coordinator Julianne Shaw at 507-380-1047.
- ◆ 19- Home-based business, HOP & Tastebuds.
- ◆ 26- Bring a friend to the Market!



Sponsored by Arlington Area Chamber of Commerce