

The Arlington Report

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Jim Kreft -- Mayor
Ben Jaszewski -- Council Member
Jennifer Nuesse -- Council Member
Curt Reetz -- Council Member
Jason Ruehling -- Council Member
Galen Wills -- Council Member

APPOINTED OFFICIALS

Liza Donabauer -- Administrator
Lisa Tesch -- Deputy Clerk
Vicki Pomplun -- Admin. Asst.
Jennifer Strack -- Community Center Coordinator
Jason Lovaas -- Maintenance Supervisor
Lee Zwartó -- Maintenance Worker
Marv Doedenó -- Interim Chief of Police
Bruce Rovinsky -- Police Officer

CONTRACTED SERVICES

Ross Ameson -- 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)

REMINDER ON SIDEWALK SNOW REMOVAL

City residents are reminded of their responsibility to remove the snow from sidewalks within 12 hours after snowfall has ceased. Ordinance 178 explains the snow/ice removal from city sidewalks.

Section 1. Public Nuisance. Any accumulation of snow or ice upon any public sidewalk is hereby declared to constitute a public nuisance, which shall be abated, by the owner or occupant of the property abutting such sidewalk within twelve (12) hours after such snow or ice has ceased to be deposited upon such sidewalk.

Failure to remove the snow or ice within 24 hours may be a cause for the City to do so itself. If the City, or an agent assigned by the City, has to remove the snow, the City will bill the property owner accordingly. You can view the complete ordinance on our website www.arlingtonmn.com

FIRE HYDRANTS

The City of Arlington and the Arlington Fire Department wants to remind everyone that if there is a fire hydrant on or near your property, please take a few moments and 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. Should the thermometer dip after melting takes place, a street can become an ice rink.

WE NEED YOUR HELP WITH METERS

To help the meter readers during this snow 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 efficiently.

PHEASANTS FOREVER

The Pheasants Forever will be hosting their 25th Anniversary Banquet on Saturday, February 8 at the Arlington Community Center. To commemorate their 25th Anniversary, they will have 25 guns for prizes. Tickets are available from Andrea Harbarth by calling (507) 237-5679.

SCRAPBOOKING RETREAT

The Rock on 80's Relay for Life team will be hosting a scrapbook retreat on Saturday, February 15th. 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.

WARMING HOUSE

The warming house is still open and available for the ice skaters to use at the Four Seasons Park. The warming house hours are Saturday/Sunday 1:00pm to 8:30pm and Monday-Friday from 4:00pm to 8:30pm. There is skating allowed at anytime, but supervised skating is only during the posted hours.

CITY OFFICE

The City Offices will be closed on Monday, February 17 in observance of the President's Day holiday. The office will reopen on Tuesday, February 18th.

LIONS FISH FRY

The Lions will be hosting their annual Fish Fry at the Arlington Community Center on Friday, February 28.

MONTHLY CITY OF ARLINGTON

TRIVIA QUESTION

There were no winners for last month's trivia question. **ANSWER:** The Sibley County Library System was originally created in 1867.

This month's trivia question:

"How many years of service did Police Officer Scott Bennett provide for the City of Arlington before he retired last month?"

Submit your answers to the City Office with your utility payment. Include your name, phone number and guess and drop off in the City Office or outside drop box. There will be a prize awarded to the top 5 closest responses on Thursday, February 25, 2014.



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A Beautiful City Growing in Unity



MAYOR KREFT IDENTIFIES FIVE GOALS FOR 2014

to help guide the City in 2014 and beyond, Mayor Kreft recently released his goals for 2014 at the first Council Meeting of the year. The releasing of these goals will become an annual event for Arlington Mayors.

1. Update our Comprehensive Plan In 2008, the Arlington City Council approved a Comprehensive Plan. The plan was the product of co-ordination and co-operation between elected officials, city committee members, city staff, and citizens. A Comprehensive Plan is a document that includes long-range plans for land-use and zoning, utilities, parks and green space, economic development, and housing. A Comprehensive Plan is a document, that also provides legal justification for land use decisions and ordinances, and helps ensure that growth will make Arlington, not only bigger, but better.

A Comprehensive Plan is only valid if it is updated every 5-6 years; the process to update our plan will invite us to envision our community in 2035, challenge us to identify trends that will shape it, and direct us to realize how we can shape it ourselves. Besides enabling officials to holistically examine and prioritize current and future issues and projects, the finalized plan will act as a pliable roadmap and hypothetical timeline for completion or implementation of projects identified during the planning process.

2. Plat our Industrial Park In 2012, 22 acres of land just southwest of the corporate city limits, adjacent to the Minnesota Prairie Line Railroad and Minnesota Highway 5, were purchased for the development of an Economic Development Authority owned industrial park. In 2013, we annexed the property into the City, prioritized potential access points to the acreage from Highway 5, collaborated with representatives from adjacent industries, examined potential funding sources, and identified possible private industries with whom to partner in the development of the park.

With this background information gathered, this year, we are ready to proceed with determining optimal lot lay-out, street and infrastructure locations and connections, and finally platting the property.

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3. Prepare for the 2015 Street and Utility Improvement Project—In 2015, the City of Arlington will undertake our largest street and underground utility project in more than two decades. The project will involve street, curb, gutter, and sidewalk reconstruction in the areas north and west of Sibley East Schools; along with the surface improvements, corresponding water and sewer infrastructure will be updated. In addition, this project will include the first portion of an incremental, long-range storm water collection improvement of the northwest quadrant of our city.

With the goal of bidding the project early in 2015, it is imperative that, without delay, we commence project design and engineering, and secure advantageous financing. This process will deeply involve our entire City Council, Administrator, and Engineer, and the project will impact dozens of property owners in the area.

4. Create a plan for the future use of our historic Fire Hall In 2011, our staff department heads and City Council evaluated the condition and uses of buildings and spaces used by our City. In 2012, the Council, with the goal of reducing redundancy, concluded that our City could increase efficiency by relocating our Police Department to a remodeled Tech Center building, thus consolidating the spaces used by our Police, Fire, and Ambulance Departments in that building and re-christening it the Emergency Services Building.

The Police Department's relocation has left the Historic Fire Hall building on Main Street mostly vacant, and provided our City with an opportunity to examine re-uses of it. Preliminary ideas for uses have ranged from community organization meeting and storage spaces to a history museum to store-front rental. To best create a viable plan for the space, the City will visit with representatives from our community groups and re-visit our needs and future demands for our City staff.

5. Assist Sibley East School District in facilities evaluation and planning, and collaborate in the creation of a joint community recreation program Recently, our School Superintendent has asked the three cities in the Sibley East School District for assistance in assessing community needs and how they tie to district facilities. Meetings have initiated between representatives of the three cities and the District and it is the intention of the District to meld the incipient group into a more formal facilities task force. Through the initial meetings, we have been reminded of the crucial value the school district lends to our communities, and been made aware of possible areas where the City can help further our symbiotic relationship with the District.

In the last months of 2012, initial conversations between City and District staff were held regarding a joint community recreation program. Many issues— cost, proportion of responsibilities, staffing, and more— need to be examined, but this is an extremely exciting proposition that could result in shared summer recreation programs, expanded recreation opportunities for all ages, and an enhanced community education curriculum. Our Park Committee and staff have begun examining the costs and benefits, and the City Council will soon hear recommendations from them.