

September 2017

Volume 1, Issue 7

Sibley County Community Development

***Tourism Summit to be held in Henderson
on September 28th***

Join us for appetizers on Thursday, September 28th from 6-8 pm at the Henderson RoadHaus Event Center, 510 Main Street, Henderson, MN 56044.

Learn about tourism opportunities for Sibley County and ask questions!

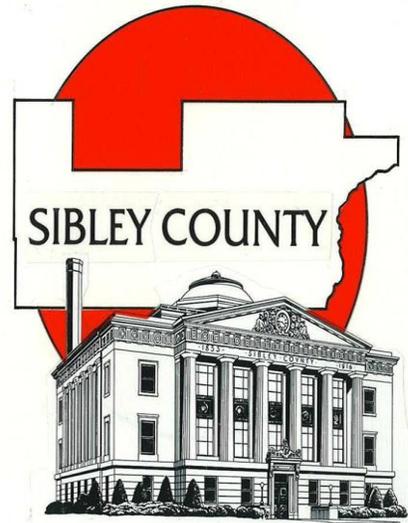
The presenters include:

Lisa Havelka, Explore Minnesota; Tammy Koerte & Brigid Tuck, University of Minnesota Extension; Mike Hahn, Small Business Development Center; and Dan McElroy, Hospitality Minnesota.

This is a great opportunity to learn about resources and services available for those wishing to start a tourism related business, expand their existing business, or promote tourism in the region.

Topics to be covered at this event include a review of demographics and statistics applicable to the tourism industry, assistance with business plans and marketing, information on financing programs, hospitality and lodging information, success stories, and other resources.

This summit is free, but RSVP to reserve your spot AmyN@co.sibley.mn.us or 507-237-4117.



Upcoming events:

September 9th & 10th –
Gaylord GPL's 98th Annual
POW WOW and GPL
Outdoors & Sporting Goods
Swap Meet.

September 13th –
Arlington ACT on Alzheimer's
Conference at Fairview
Assisted Living in Arlington
featuring Kris Langworthy and
Ray Bicke.
1-4 p.m.
Please RSVP to Barb
Alsleben

September 17th –
Emotions in Motion Walk for
Life at the McLeod County
Fairgrounds in Hutchinson.
Contact Tammy Diehn at 507-
381-4082 or
diehn61@gmail.com.

September 19th –
Winthrop Day of Health 7
a.m. to 12:30 pm at the RS
Fiber building.

September 28th –
Sibley County Tourism
Summit at the Henderson
RoadHaus from 6-8 p.m.



Sponsored by:
Kerfoot Canopy Tours, Y-Not Plumbing &
Heating, 3-in-1 Learning Center and,
Arlington Storage, Inc.



Information obtained from First Children's Finance shows that Sibley County has a shortage of approximately 379 child care slots. The Arlington area has the highest gap at 124 slots based on zip code analysis.

Why is this important to Sibley County's economic development? Child care related issues represent 45% of employee absenteeism, and 65% of parents' work schedules are affected by child care challenges. This places a financial/operational burden on employers, and a financial burden on families. It is estimated that businesses lose \$3 billion annually because of child care issues.

The Core Team is asking parents to complete a parent survey. The survey can be found on the Sibley County website or Facebook page. You can also contact Amy Newsom at AmyN@co.sibley.mn.us to have the survey emailed to you.

Please plan to attend our upcoming **Town Hall meeting on Thursday, November 16th from 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm** at the **Arlington Community Center**.

Land for Sale in Arlington:

The City of
ARLINGTON
County Rd 9 & Hwy 5

Price Negotiable



PID: 31.0884.000
Legal Desc.: Section 16, Twp 113, Range 27; Tract 1 of NW Quarter of Survey 692
Acreage: 10.45
Utilities: All Available to Site
Amenities: Highly visible location along Hwy 5 - 4,300 average daily traffic; access from Hwy 5 and County Road 9
Zoning: B-1 Service Business District

For more information please contact Arlington EDA Director Holly Kreft at hkreftmd@gmail.com or 952-529-5022.

Fright Night coming to Downtown Arlington



7TH Annual Halloween Fright Night
(Sponsored by Arlington Area Chamber of Commerce)

Tuesday, October 31, 2017
5:30-7:00 pm
Above the Dugout on Main Street
East of Hwy 5 to 1st Avenue
Arlington, MN

Come join us for Trick or Treating, haunted house, food, and games!
(Trick or Treating bags available above the Dugout)

Sibley County restructuring update

In late 2015 and into 2016, the County completed a goal setting process involving the Board and Department Heads. One of the goals was Department Restructuring stated as "Design an organizational structure that will provide quality and efficient services to the public". The characteristics of the Goal are to provide 1) better service; 2) one stop shopping; 3) cross training; and 4) efficiency of cost and services by reducing the number of departments and department heads

Sibley County is looking at ways to continuously improve its efforts to serve Sibley County residents and to be a good steward of tax dollars; and updating our organizational structure is one tool with which to provide the framework for meeting the stated Board goals, to enable our processes and procedures to be changed positively, and to drive continuous improvement within Sibley County departments; and this is a tool for Sibley County government to increase efficiencies in its customer services and provide a more streamlined workplace for employees.

Committees were formed to review and provide a recommendation to the Board on an Organizational Structure. From those meetings, the following changes were recommended and have now gone into effect as of August 7.

Property Assessing & Zoning Office

- Assessing
- Planning & Zoning

Auditor's Office

- County Ditch (new)
- Retains all other Auditor functions

Administration

- Information Services
- Emergency Management
- Veteran Services
- Building Maintenance
- Community Development
- Human Resources

As part of this change, the Environmental Services Department, the Information Services Department, the Building Maintenance Department, the Veterans Service Department, the Human Resources Department and the Emergency Management Department have been merged into other departments, creating a more streamlined structure for the future.

The County website is in the process of being updated to reflect these changes. At this time, our Ditch staff has moved to the Auditor's Office with all other staff remaining in their current locations until such time as our Courthouse renovation work is completed.



Upcoming Events:

September 29th –
Explore Minnesota Tourism
Grant due!

October 5th –
SMIF Quality Child Care
Program at the Gaylord
Library.
Free DEVELOP-approved
training 6:30 – 9:00 p.m.
Please register with SMIF for
this event.

October 8th –
Henderson Classic Car Roll
In final Roll In, also
Henderson Heritage Days,
Pop Up Birthday Sale in the
Event Center
11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

October 6th –
Deadline to order roses from
the Winthrop Lions Annual
Rose Sale. Contact Keith or
Marge Richer at 507-647-
5784 to place your order. Pick
up day is October 13th.

October 14th-
Arlington Fire Department
Fall Block Party.
Pork Chop Dinner 5:30 to
7:30 pm, music by Rhythm
Kings.
IV Play at 8 pm.

October 31st-
Fright Night in Arlington
Trick-or-Treating
5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Downtown Arlington

Update on the GFW bond project from Superintendent Tami Martin

Even though our buildings were well maintained, it became evident that we could no longer keep up with some of the larger issues our buildings had, like corroded pipes in the ceilings of the middle school, constant flooding issues at the elementary school, water infiltration at the auditorium of the middle school, asbestos flooring removal at the high school, bleacher replacement at the high school, non-compliant ADA bathrooms at the high school, limited access for ADA to our auditorium and hallways at the high school and so on. We knew we had more needs to keep our schools safe and functioning for our students than we were receiving funds from the state. We started having community meetings in March of 2014 at a Community Strategic Planning Day.

After some discussions about how we were going to address our shortfall of funds for needs, it was decided we would have additional meetings in the fall. We held meetings in each of our communities in October of 2015. Soon after these meetings we were informed that the legislature was considering a bill that would include tax relief for our agriculture community and felt it would be better to wait to see how this unfolded. The tax bill in June of 2016 did include the Ag to School tax credit, but unfortunately due to a wording issue in the bill it did not get signed by Governor Dayton. So, we decided to continue doing our best with the funds we had and be mindful that we only addressed issues that would not be undone, should we go forward with a bond project. In December of 2016, we were informed that the Ag to School credit had a very good chance of passing in the next legislative round and we decided to move forward with looking into the possibility of a bond project.

In January 2017 we started the process with RA Morton and GLTA Architects. They came out and did some preliminary work to see what our base needs were and then worked with our task force committee to explore options. Originally we looked at just fixing the base needs, which were well over 20 million. After much discussion and time by the committee, the final proposal was brought to the school board. The GFW school board unanimously approved the final project in June 2017. The plan is currently under review by the state and we are now holding community meetings to address specific questions about the project. We will be having a meeting at each one of our sites. On September 14, we will be meeting on the stage of the middle school auditorium at 7 pm. Then on September 20, we will be meeting in the high school library at 7 pm. Last, we will be meeting in the elementary cafeteria on September 25 at 6 pm. Information on these meetings and the specifics regarding where/when to vote will be in our local newspapers and on our website. You can also find some frequently asked questions and specific tax impact information on our website.

Yes, the school year has begun and it is an exciting time for all of us! We hope to see you at our schools as volunteers, in the audience of our programs, plays, and sporting events. We are a strong school district, because of the high involvement and support from you. So, I end by simply saying "thank you".



Sibley County
Community Development

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Find us on the Web:
<http://www.co.sibley.mn.us>
and Facebook.

Like us on Facebook!
Scan the QR Code below!



Check out the latest edition of
Connect Magazine for
Chamber and Economic
Development news.

www.connectbiz.com



The Arlington Area Chamber of Commerce is excited to announce our 9th Annual Arli-Dazzle celebration! Our festive holiday event will be bringing Christmas cheer once again on Saturday, December 2nd, 2017. We look forward to the continued support from our local businesses & community as we showcase Arlington for another spectacular Arli-Dazzle full of Joy, Peace and Season's Greetings!

Preview of our Activities/Events:

Quilt Show at the Library
Santa Day at the Community Center
Arlington Museum Tours
12 + Food Vendors Serving All Day/Evening
New: Arli-Dazzle's Christmas Market – 60 vendors
providing handmade/locally crafted items
Dash Through the Snow 5k
Arlington Fire Department's Fish Camp
Sakatah Carvers Ice Sculptors
Horse Drawn Sleigh Rides
Vintage Snowmobile Show
Decantus – Traditional Christmas Carolers
Bonfires along Main Street
Sled Dogs Team Demonstrations
Arlington Greys 1860s Snowball Baseball Game
Visit with Santa's Reindeer
The Amazing Hoopsters
Schell's Hobo Christmas Quartet
Bethlehem Express at St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Santa & Mrs. Claus make their grand entrance on a real
Train
Arlington Area Chamber of Commerce Annual Raffle Drawing
Arli-Dazzle Parade "Probably THE Largest Lighted Christmas
Parade in Minnesota"

October newsletter

Please submit your local economic development news and events to Amy Newsom at AmyN@co.sibley.mn.us or PO Box 256 by Friday, October 6th to be included in our next Sibley County newsletter. The next newsletter will come out on Friday, October 13th.