

VILLAGE OF VILNA

Newsletter

MAY, 2023



Spring is here, and so are the winds and the weeds and fires. One of the priorities of your Council is to brighten up the Village. That means convincing everyone to clean up their yards and brighten up their gardens.

GREAT NEWS: We got the grant to replace the treated water reservoir. At the end of April we were informed that we were successful in getting a \$3,562,500.00 grant toward the project. As exciting as that is, it is a 75/25 grant. The grant will cover 75% of the project and the Village will have to provide the other 25%. The Engineers are working on the design drawings and firm up cost estimates. Once that is done the project will be put out to tender. It's quite possible that construction won't start until fall or spring 2024.

We will continue to test the water daily to ensure that the quality of the water you are receiving meets the approval of Alberta Environment and Alberta Health.

FIRE BAN Province Wide

Due to extreme fire hazard conditions the province has upgraded the existing fire restriction to a **FIRE BAN**. The ban will remain in effect until further notice. The Fire Ban means there are **ABSOLUTELY NO OUTDOOR FIRES** permitted. This means NO open fires, camp fires, brush piles and burning barrels. The discharge of fireworks is also prohibited during this ban. **Don't toss cigarette butts on the ground.**

All ATV's or Off Road Vehicles are prohibited during the FIRE BAN.

Gas fueled barbeques with lids and liquid fueled camping stoves will be allowed.

A person who causes a fire during a Fire Ban may be prosecuted and responsible for the costs of extinguishing.

COMMUNITY MEETINGS

Your Council is planning some Community Meetings where you can share your opinions and ideas on what your vision of Vilna is and how you see us getting there.

Special notices will be sent out when dates have been set.

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Why are taxes increasing?

***Entitlement.** Easy one word answer – entitlement. The Village has Bylaws that many residents feel do not apply to them. As such, Council has had to contract an expensive Bylaw Enforcement Officer to re-introduce aspects of civilization. The Village of Vilna is no different than Edmonton, Calgary or Vancouver. Rules must be followed for a greater quality of life.*

There have been many, many warnings in letters and newsletters about unsightly premises, lack of building permits, unlicensed chickens, unlicensed dogs, animal control issues and derelict vehicles and cluttered yards.

For Vilna to move forward, not just survive, but to thrive, there must be painful changes. There is no more hiding from or turning a blind eye to responsibility.

***Inflation.** Whether it's carbon tax or minor wage increases, costs have crept up. Inflation affects everything, and municipal costs, including utilities are not immune.*

Hence, compared to Edmonton, a very small tax increase.



We registered with **COMMUNITIES IN BLOOM** this year. And the color for 2023 is purple. The goals of the program are:

Vision:

To inspire all communities to enhance the quality of life and our environment

through people and plants in order to create community pride.

Mission:

We are a volunteer and partnership-driven organization that uses a multi-tiered competitive evaluation process to foster community strength, involvement and continuous improvement.

UNSTOPPABLE CONVERSATIONS

The Village was selected for a grant for guest speakers and workshops that are geared to encouraging community members to get involved and work together to address community needs and transform some of our thinking to produce seemingly impossible, positive results.

We held two 4 hour workshops at the end of April and are now moving into using the information gathered to make Vilna a growing, positive thinking, public spirited community.



"If you want to discover and empower yourself under any circumstance and find your hidden blindspots dealing with ethics and the decisions you make, this will knock you out!"

DIFFERENCE MAKERS

Difference Makers is another grant funded program that has been attracting people in the community. It is a program to develop and activate the leadership skills for community members and organizations.

- The program teaches leading-edge techniques and strategies backed by evidence to help all levels of organization leaders:
- Reduce day-to-day stress
- Increase your capacity to handle conflict
- Improve your productivity
- Act as a leader in your professional and personal lives.

Here's a few questions to ask yourself,

- "What's working to support all children having safe and engaging upbringings?"
- "Where do our best intentions fall short, and why?"
- "If you had a magic wand, what would you change?"
- "How close are we to success? If we don't know, how can we find out?"
- "What can you bring to this work, and what do you need?"
- "Who's not involved in this issue, but should be?"
- What are some of the Village's past successes?
- What do you expect the Village to be like in the future?
- How do we get there?
- Are there some road blocks?
- How do we get around them?

If you're interesting in getting involved and helping the Village to get around these roadblocks, leave your name and email address at the Village Office or send your email address to vilna@mcsnet.ca We'll include you in the upcoming webinars workshops and meetingsThe initiative is designed by, award winning humanitarian IAN HILL, and based on a very simple truism, "let the people closest to the problem, solve their problems"!



BYLAW CORNER:

It seems that people don't seem to understand the need for Bylaws and Bylaw Enforcement. Because of this Council has added \$10,000.00 to the budget to cover the cost of contracting the Smoky Lake County Bylaw Enforcement. This cost will be added to your property taxes.

Pet Ownership Reminder: *When you go for a walk with your dog, attach a leash to its collar. ALSO, take a plastic bag with you and PICK UP ITS DEFICATION. There is nothing more disgusting that walking down the sidewalk and seeing dog excrement beside you.*

SPRING CLEAN UP

Vinette Salvage has again provided waste disposal bins located at the back of the Village Office. Take advantage of this very generous offer and dispose of all that winter debris in the bins.



KEEPING OUR COMMUNITY SAFE ...



Mark Your Calendar:

Come have a COFFEE WITH A COP

May 18, 2023 – 10:00 a.m.

At Porky's Sidestreet Café.

Bring your questions and concerns. Talk to them about rules and regulations pertaining to STOP SIGNS - Security cameras - Night lights, - Reporting an offense - Knowing when to call 911 - Understanding fraud and identity theft.

**RCMP – 780-656-3550 days
780-656-3691 AFTER HOURS
EMERGENCIES – 911**

COMMUNITY STANDARDS BYLAW

The Community Standards Bylaw is a Common Sense Bylaw.

If there's garbage on your property ... *Pick it up.*

If there's a board broken on your fence ... *Fix it.*

If your old car doesn't run anymore ... *Get rid of it.*

As summer progresses the grass is going to grow. *Mow it.*

Don't throw trash onto the streets – *there are trash cans all over town.*

Those weeds growing in the back alley need to be cut down.

If the paint is peeling on your house – *paint it.*

Here's one we should all remember: If your neighbour needs help with any of these issues .. *lend a hand.*

COUNCIL MEETINGS

Wednesday – May 10, 2023 – 5:30

Wednesday – June 14, 2023 – 5:30

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