

VILLAGE OF VILNA

Newsletter

JANUARY 2024



2023 started out at minus 35 degrees, moving into a hot dry spring full of forest and grass fires. Summer and fall were more normal than anticipated, but who could have guessed that we would still not have snow and the temperatures get above zero during the day?

“A farmer once said that we don’t need any snow throughout the winter, because when it melts, the ground is still frozen and it just drains away So all we really need is a good couple feet of snow in March that will absorb into the soil, or April showers.”

We, the Village of Vilna, however need snow to protect our underground pipes.

“To appreciate the beauty of a snowflake it is necessary to stand out in the cold.”

Aristotle

We’re facing a drought

We received a letter from Alberta Environment & Protected Areas. They have a scale in its emergency water management plan ranging from #1 being minor drought and #5 being Province wide emergency. Currently, they have indicated that we are in stage #4, indicating that unless we get snow and spring rains we will be faced with a Province Wide Emergency and will be forced to restrict use of water. A Drought Command Team will be set up and all usage of water in each municipality will be monitored and controlled. The Province is asking all water users (you and me) to start planning now to use less water. To learn more about the impacts of drought on communities and the principles for sound water management, please visit alberta.ca/drought.

Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework is a required format for municipalities with common boundaries to identify the services that benefit residents in more than one of the municipalities; identify which municipality is responsible for providing these services and outline how services will be delivered and funded.

We are currently discussing the structure of a **Regional Fire Service**. It has been determined that we do not have sufficient trained volunteer firefighters to provide a continuous service and are therefore looking at the possibility of hiring paid fire fighters through the busiest fire season.

Early in the year the possibility of contracting the **County Bylaw Enforcement Officer** was



discussed, and is still being discussed. This topic falls under the Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework. It was that the Regional Fire Service agreement holds priority over Regional Bylaw Services, so the Contract with Smoky Lake County to use their Bylaw Officer is delayed.

Community Standards Bylaws



Council reviewed the unsightly Premises sections, the traffic and parking sections in an attempt to ease the

enforcement and encourage residents and businesses to put pride into their properties and enhance the attractiveness of the Village.

Pet Ownership Bylaw

Pet owners are reminded that the loveable creatures are your responsibility.

Your neighbours might not love them as much as you and would prefer that you keep your dogs and cats on your own property.



A test program was initiated to determine if hens or bees would fit into our community.

Unfortunately, the regulations required by the Province made the enforcement of these options difficult. Council has resolved to remove the keeping of bees or hens from the pet bylaw.

KEEPING OUR COMMUNITY SAFE

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT with the RCMP



January 16, 2024 – National Hall Smoky Lake. Doors open at 6:30, presentations begin at 7:00 with a Question & Answer session afterward

Guest Speakers discussing Crime Prevention through Environmental Design and a presentation on Citizens on Patrol.

Join members of the Smoky Lake RCMP at the Village Office at 10:00 a.m. on February 15th, 2024 to have “COFFEE WITH A COP”. The

members will be in Vilna hoping to have coffee and a chat with you at the Village Office at 10:00 a.m. Have you been asking yourself questions like: “*What are the RCMP doing about this?*” or “*What can we do to protect ourselves from these crimes?*” concerns and issues with them, and ask them those questions you really want the answers to.

**RCMP Smoky Lake – 780-656-3550 days
After Hours Non-Emergency - 780-656-3691**

EMERGENCIES – 911

DRIVE HAPPINESS.



What is DRIVE HAPPINESS? It is a Smoky Lake regional transportation program that focuses on helping seniors connect with volunteers to drive them to medical appointments.

We now have 2 drivers in Vilna who are registered with the program. To order a ride call

**1-888-336-4503 or 1-780-424-5438
DRIVEHAPPINESS.CA**

SAVE THE DATE

Firefighters Dine and Dance

February 10th, 2024, Doors open 5pm

At the Cultural Centre.

Watch for posters!



***Happy New Year
from Council
and Staff***

MONTHLY Utility or Tax PAYMENTS

We hear over and over how helpful it has been when homeowners and residents make monthly payments on taxes or utilities. “*Why didn’t I do this sooner?!*”

If you are interested, please contact the Village Office before the end of January to make arrangements.

COUNCIL MEETINGS

Next Regular Council Meetings 5:30 p.m.

**Wednesday January 10th, 2024 and
Wednesday February 14th, 2024**

REMINDERS

- 1) Business Licenses** are due for renewal in January.
- 2) Annual Dog Licenses** are due in January - \$10.00/year. The Bylaw allows pet owners to purchase a life license for \$50.00.

VILLAGE OFFICE

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