

VILLAGE OF VILNA

Newsletter

JANUARY 2025



COUNCIL NOTES

Summary of 2024

Following are some of the projects they were involved with.

Water Reservoir

The Project Designs should be complete by the end of January with the Construction Designs complete by the end of March. This will give us a more accurate price so we can borrow the 20% to match the 80% grant we will receive.

The existing water reservoir will remain operational until the new one is activated.

Regional Fire & Rescue



For the past 2 years the municipalities within Smoky Lake County have been working on a Regional Fire & Rescue initiative. The number of volunteers is declining so in order to

provide a safe and effective service it has been decided that our volunteer system has to be enhanced. Under this system the County will own the majority of the firefighting equipment; the Villages and Town will continue to own the buildings and will each pay a portion of the Capital purchases and the Operating expenses. The Regional Fire & Rescue will have a full time Fire Chief and Deputy Chief, a full time administration assistant and two full time Firefighters.

Drought Policy

Council has passed a Policy that, in the event of another drought or a water shortage, the policy is to ensure the effective and efficient use of the Village of Vilna water supply by residential, commercial, industrial, and institutional users through a regulatory water conservation framework.

The Policy is part of the Fire Department's Fire Ban regulation.

Regional Housing Study

The rural communities are experiencing interest from people who want to move to smaller communities where they can experience a slower life style. In Alberta the Municipal Councils did some studies into available housing to rent or to own. The Smoky Lake Region has commissioned the Rural Development Network (RDN) to conduct a Housing Needs and Demands Assessment and identify current trends within the region. The focus of this assessment is to identify existing housing inventory gaps relating to affordability, suitability, and adequacy. This "Housing Needs and Demands" assessment was developed using the available secondary data for the Town of Smoky Lake, Vilna, Waskatenau, the surrounding Census Division No.12, and the Province of Alberta. The report reflects the current and emerging housing issues for our region within the context of the local area and the province. They also looked into possible new businesses that would provide work for these people. The demographic data is essential to understand household, family, and community aging trends to assess future housing supply needs.

Upgraded Recycling Program



The members of the Evergreen Regional Waste Services Commission have agreed to participate in the Alberta Recycling Management Authority (ARMA) Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) program.

This Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) is a policy approach in which producers (the businesses that supply packaging and paper) are financially responsible and accountable for those materials over their life cycle. Recycling programs founded on the principles of Extended Producer Responsibility improve recycling costs and rates and encourage more efficient use of materials.

When the program begins, depots will be set up in communities in order to enhance the recycling programs in order to reduce waste and recycle many products. **For Vilna this probably won't start until 2026.**



KEEPING OUR COMMUNITY SAFE

Each month there are more and different crimes around us. We have to deal with break and

enters, vandalism, vehicle thefts, fuel thefts, cyber-crimes, and many other issues.

None of this is new, but crime is something of which we all need to be aware and watchful.

For your security – set up security cameras – make sure you have good lighting around your home – report anything questionable. You don't have to call 911. Just make the call so that the RCMP can open a file. They may have similar files to match together.

"COFFEE WITH A COP".

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?*

Join members of the Smoky Lake RCMP at the Village Office at 10:00 a.m. on February 16th, 2025 to have "COFFEE WITH A COP".

Share your concerns and issues with them, and ask them those questions you really want answers to.

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

CITIZENS ON PATROL

"Building safer communities by mobilizing citizens throughout Alberta to participate in a community based crime prevention initiative in co-operation with their local law enforcement agencies."

Who are Citizens On Patrol? They are citizens, working closely with the RCMP in the community who volunteer and act as an extra set of eyes in watching what is happening in their neighbourhoods. As well, Citizens On Patrol listen to what is going on. If something appears to be criminal in nature, or is unusual, the volunteer will notify local law enforcement and report what they have seen or heard.

People in the community know who belongs and can recognize when something questionable is taking place. The local police cannot be everywhere.

The role of the volunteer is to be those "extra eyes and ears" that assist in helping to keep the community safer.

If interested in participating, contact Mayor Kunyk at ATB 780-636-3666



The structure being built on Main Street along the Iron Horse Trail will display our **Volunteer Fire Department's 1929 Bikle Fire Truck.**

DRIVE HAPPINESS

What is DRIVE HAPPINESS? It is a regional transportation program that focuses on helping seniors connect with volunteers to drive them to medical appointments. The Volunteers will receive a fuel re-imbursment in exchange. Volunteer drivers are needed to build the roster and help improve the program. Providing a senior with the means to manage their mobility makes for a happy passenger. You are literally driving happiness! Are you interested in helping us help the seniors in our community? Call Drive Happiness today to volunteer as a driver.

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**1-888-336-4503 or 1-780-424-5438
drivehappiness.ca**

AROUND THE VILLAGE

- **FIREMAN'S BALL – Saturday February 8th, 2025 -**
Tickets at the Door
Cocktails – 5:30 p.m.
Dinner – 6:30 p.m.
Dance 9:00 p.m.
- **QUICK DICK MCDICK – comedian – Friday, February 28th –**
8:00 p.m. (Cultural Centre)
Tickets at Cyr's Store (ATB)
- **COFFEE WITH A COP – Feb. 16, 2025**
10:00 a.m. Village Office
- **Library Hours**
 - Tuesdays - Wednesdays - Thursdays
10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
 - Contact: Rebekah @ 780-636-2077
▪ rharakal@vilnapubliclibrary.ab.ca

COUNCIL MEETINGS

Next Regular Council Meetings 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday	January 22nd, 2025 and
Wednesday	February 15th, 2025

MONTHLY PAYMENTS

If you are interested in making monthly payments on your taxes or utilities, contact the Village Office before the end of January to make arrangements.



VILLAGE OFFICE
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