

***VILLAGE OF VILNA
NEWSLETTER
March 2013***

DON'T FORGET!! SPRING AHEAD YOUR
CLOCK MARCH 10 2013 AT 2AM - A TRUE
SIGN THAT SPRING IS ALMOST HERE!!!

!!!! NO GARBAGE PICK-UP MARCH 13, 2013 !!!!

***PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE WILL BE NO PICK-UP OF GARBAGE ON
WEDNESDAY MARCH 13 AS KEVIN WILL BE AWAY.***

Water Treatment Plant

The winter has not been kind to the Water Department. The first water break was November 9th, the second on January 14th and on January 20th, the pump in our water well quit. Your assistance in conserving water meant that we were able to maintain positive pressure in the water lines and there was no need for additional inconvenience.

The upgrade to the distribution system in the Water Treatment Plant is now complete. There are new pumps, natural gas generator engine and fire pump, distribution header and monitoring system. As the old pump system was about 25 years old, this will make a big difference in the stability of water delivery to all residences.

Highway 28/63 Water Commission

Some of you may have noticed the cleared piece of land on the east side of the Village, along the highway. This is being used as an equipment station for the companies constructing the water line. You may also have noticed that there is work on the line near Spedden coming towards Vilna and from Smoky Lake towards Vilna. Completion of the water line construction is currently slated for about November. The Village's costs for this line have all been applied for through allotments from grant funding for capital projects.

Once the water line is here and operational, administration will be proposing a new billing structure to Council for water which will apply to most properties. This may include a flat-rate fee for delivery infrastructure (pipes) and then a charge for water usage at your property.

Vilna Transfer Station (Dump)

You will notice a new face at the transfer station on your next visit. Carmen is working Tuesdays and Saturdays 9am to 5pm and is the new operator there.

COUNCIL HAPPENINGS

Regional Collaboration Grant

In November, Council agreed to be a part of this grant with the Village of Waskatenau, Town of Smoky Lake and Smoky Lake County. The County will be managing partner (this means that the County will manage the paperwork, etc.) This grant will provide money to our region for municipal planning and to make certain that we are making the most of our economic development planning. For the required matching dollars, the province will allow "in kind" contributions, so the Village will not have to provide "cash" money for the matching portion of the grant, but can use staffing/contracting contributions to account for our portion.

Bonnie Lake Campground

Council has chosen to tender out the maintenance of Bonnie Lake Campground. A Request for Proposal has been called and submissions due by 2:00 P.M. March 14th, 2013. It is anticipated that Council will review the proposals at their March 18th Council meeting.

Financial Audit

The 2012 Financial Audit is nearly complete. At the April 15th meeting, Council will be presented with the audited statements. We will have them available for you after that. Your cooperation and understanding of the constraints we're working under is paying off. We were able to close 2012 without having to activate the line of credit, and we've managed to reduce the debt by another \$55,930.00. As of December 31, 2012 the Village's debt is less than \$500,000.00.

Council Meetings

Attending Council meetings is the right way of finding out for yourself what is actually happening in the Village. Also, the office staff members are happy to address any questions you may have. If you wish to speak at a meeting, one week's notice is required, as well as a written outline of what you wish to speak of. Any questions you have of Council may not necessarily be answered at the meeting. In order to conduct meetings efficiently, a time limit for your presentation may be required.

*Friends and good manners will carry you where money
won't go. Margaret Walker*

Roads

We have gone most of the past three winters without the services of a grader. We were able to contract the County to assist from time to time, but their equipment isn't often available to us. Kevin has done his best to keep the streets clear using the back-hoe, but with all the snow this past winter, his efforts seemed fruitless. We have been able to acquire a used grader so he can scrape down the snow and ice.



*Good News!! Bellis Gas is now open
for business!!*

Taxes & Utilities

Please call the office at 780-636-3620 if you would like to set up your tax and utility payments to be automatically paid through your bank account monthly.

Collection efforts are paying off but there are still substantial unpaid accounts for both taxes and utilities. If you are in arrears and have not yet spoken to the Village office about it, please call us at 780-636-3620 so that we can discuss suitable arrangements to get you caught up.

For Taxes - significant arrears can cause the Tax Sale process to begin, a necessary action that no-one wants to take.

For Utilities - Shutoffs are imminent if your account is not paid.

In both cases, formal payment arrangements can defer these actions.

Spring is Springing!!

If you happen to have the odd spare seedling for the Village office flower pots, they would be very much appreciated. We would love to get the outside pots planted this year for in front of the office building.

Although winter is not over yet, we did get a lot of snow this year, and we will soon see it melting around us. Please ensure that you are keeping drainage ditches and pathways as clear as possible for runoff. Vilna does not have a storm sewer system, so runoff of water is

important to ensure that roads and sidewalks (especially) are damaged as little as possible.

Fires

Please note that if the fire department is required to respond to your property for a fire (indoors or outdoors), you may be charged for the call. The Village bylaw #496-12, for these charges at \$200.00 per hour per unit (truck) responding.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Sundays

- Vilna Hope Community Church Service 10:30 am.
- Stry Ukr Cath Church Mass - March 17 11:15am
- Stry Ukr Cath Church Good Fri Mass - March 29 3pm
- Stry Ukr Cath Church Easter Mass - March 31 10:30am
- Stry Ukr Cath Church Mass - April 21 11:15am
- Seniors Drop-in Centre Bingo 7:30 pm (Plus many other activities during the week. Become a member, check it out!!)

Mondays

- **Regular Council Meetings, 3rd Monday** each month usually at 7pm unless otherwise posted.
- Next meeting - March 18th at 7pm,
- Vilna & Dist. Ag. Society Mtg. - 2nd Monday each month.

Tuesdays - Library 3:30 - 7:30 pm

- Curling at the Arena til March 26- 7:30pm

Thursdays - Library 3:30 - 7:30 pm

- Senior's Pot Luck Supper 3rd Thursday/month 6pm
- Chamber of Commerce Mtg. Last Thurs each month

Friday - Curling at the Arena March 22 at 7:30pm

Saturdays --MARCH 23 5:00PM VILNA GRAD EASTER SUPPER AT THE VILNA CULTURAL CENTRE

-Library 12:00 to 4:00 pm

Village Office Information:

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Webpage: vilna.ca

Facebook: Search "Vilna, Alberta"



HAPPY EASTER
EVERYONE

