

VILLAGE OF VILNA
NEWSLETTER
November, 2012

Get the facts first. You can distort them later.
Mark Twain

Main Street Break-ins

Recently there were two break-ins at businesses on Main Street. If you have any information about this, please contact the RCMP or the Village office. If you see something suspicious while you are out and about, please do not hesitate to contact the RCMP. Let's try and keep our village safe.

Water Treatment Plant

As you all know, the upgrade to the Treatment Plant is ongoing. It is about 2/3 of the way finished now. On October 8th you were all advised by notice that the water was to be shut off on the evening of October 9th. Fortunately, we did devise a way to avoid the shut-off and apologize that we were not able to advise everyone of the change. The new distribution system should be complete by the end of November. Thank you for your patience. *We wish to thank the fire department for the use of their fire hose.*

Highway 28/63 Water Commission

The Town of Smoky Lake is completing the turnover of the supply of water to the regional water line, which makes it ever closer to getting to us. Construction contracts are nearly complete for the line from Smoky Lake to Spedden, and even though winter is upon us, construction should continue as long as the weather is reasonable and will not put equipment at risk.

Bylaw Enforcement

At the October meeting of Council, the Community Standards bylaw was reviewed. Council has given first reading to the bylaw, and the second and final readings should occur at the November 19th meeting. This new bylaw carries fines and fees which will give the enforcement of the bylaw many more "teeth" than the last bylaw did.

The review of the updated traffic bylaw is ongoing. First reading was given to a new Procedures bylaw.

Although the Dog Bylaw is mostly regarding dogs, it also contains clauses regarding other domestic animals. One of these clauses - 8.11 states: "No person shall harbour more than four (4) cats in any residential property within the Village." Please have respect for your neighbors. Keep track of, feed and take proper care of your animals!!! There are fines for contravening the bylaw.

It bears repeating: We looked into hiring a bylaw enforcement officer to administer our bylaws. The cost was a bit prohibitive, \$7,500.00 annually for 4 hours per week. *Your cooperation in keeping your yards clean, your pets at home and the snow cleared from the sidewalks will be a great help and more economic.*

Change your thoughts and you change your world.

Norman Vincent Peale

Seniors Snow Removal Program

We will again be offering the driveway clearing program to senior citizens. The requirements are that you be a senior citizen living in the home, with a driveway which you use. The program cost will be reviewed at the upcoming meeting of Council. The program is subsidized with FCSS funding.

If you are interested, please contact the Village Office at 780-636-3620.

Council Meetings

Attending Council meetings is a good 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 be a delegate and speak at a meeting, one week's notice is required, as well as a written outline of what you wish to speak of. Remember also, that questions you may have of Council may not be answered at the meeting as research may be required to do so. In order to conduct meetings as efficiently as possible, a time limit may also be required.

Monthly Tax & Utility Payments

Many individuals pay their taxes and utility payments monthly through the automatic withdrawal system. This makes payment of the regular bills much simpler for most folks. In order to qualify for this *penalty exempt* option, the account must be up-to-date when the option begins. To be eligible for the penalty exemption

for 2013 taxes, your tax account must be paid in full by December 31, 2012.

Please contact the office if you would like more information.

Street Patches

The paving of two large patches on Main Street have been completed. The patch at Mushroom Park was not done due to the possibility that a repair to a line in 2009 may still be leaking. If this had been paved and there is a leak underground, the patch would need to be dug up, the leak repaired, and the patch re-done. Paving, road repair, patches and underground repairs are extremely expensive.

Fires

Please take 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.

Streetlights

To report a streetlight which is not operating correctly, you can call:

ATCO ELECTRIC - 1-800-668-2248, Press 2, then press 3. You will be connected to a representative who can take the information. You will be asked for the address where the streetlight is closest to. If you can, also provide the number shown on a metal plate on the pole. This ensures that the repair is done on the correct light.

Please record this information for future use.

Public Works

Things have certainly been difficult these past three months for Kevin and their entire family, but now that his daughter's brain cancer treatments are complete, the regular schedule of garbage and maintenance will return to normal. We are grateful to those of you who have been exceptionally understanding and tolerant
THANK YOU.

Plumbing Problems

Staff and Council are aware that in the past, as a courtesy, if you were experiencing plumbing problems such as a blocked sewer pipe, someone from public works would try to clear it with a snake. The Village no longer has a domestic snake, or more than one public works staff. Unfortunately the Village is no longer able to provide this service. Please contact

a plumber if you are experiencing plumbing problems in your property.

Riverland Recreation Trail Society

Each year the Village is required to contribute to this organization of volunteers who maintain the Iron Horse Trail. This year, the *Village would like to thank* a business and an individual in the Village who donated funds to cover this expense (We were not advised for certain who they were). The Trail not only provides recreational opportunity for all of us, but it also brings visitors and tourists to our Village which is very good for our economy.

When there is darkness, dare to be the first to shine a light. (excerpt) Steve Maraboli

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Sundays

- Vilna Hope Community Church Service 10:30 am.
 - Bingo - Seniors Drop-in Centre 7:30 pm
 - Stry Ukrainian Catholic Mass - 11:00am
- November 18

Mondays

- Regular Council Meetings, 3rd Monday** each month.
- Next meeting - November 19 (Usually at 7:00 p.m. unless scheduling requires a change, which will be posted on the office door).
- Vilna & Dist. Ag. Society Mtg. - 2nd Monday each month.

Tuesdays - Library 3:30 - 7:30 pm

- Vilna School** - Literacy & Parent/Teacher Night 3:30-5:30 pm November 13

Thursdays - Library 3:30 - 7:30 pm

- **Senior's Pot Luck Supper** November 15, 6:00
- Chamber of Commerce Mtg. Last Thurs each month

Friday - **Vilna Ukrainian Dance Club Perogy Supper** 5-7pm November 30

Saturdays -Library 12:00 to 4:00 pm

- November 10, 2012 Christmas Craft Sale - Start 10am**

Village Office Information:

Phone: 780-636-3620

email: vilna@mcsnet.ca

Fax: 780-636-3022

Webpage: vilna.ca

Facebook: Search "Vilna, Alberta"

A lie can travel half way around the world while the truth is just putting on its shoes.

Mark Twain