Spring Lake Newsletter

December 2012 - Issue 9

www.springlakealberta.com

Village of Spring Lake

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Office Hours:
Monday – Wednesday, Friday
8:30 am to 4:30 pm
Thursday – 8:30am to 6:00pm

Mayor
Don Dobing

Deputy Mayor
John Roznicki

Councillors
Cam MacDonald
Bonnie Flesher

Administrator
Emily House

Assistant Administrator
Sandi Gillespie

Public Works
Don Shtybel
Ken Megill

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Contributions

Environmental Advisory Committee Newsletter

Message from the Mayor and Council

'Twas the Sunday before Christmas, and all across the lake
not a creature was stirring for heaven's sake.
The lights were hung on the houses with care,
In hopes that Santa (the mayor) would soon be there;

When out on the street there arose such a clatter,
I sprang from the couch to see what was the matter.
Away to the window I flew like a flash,
tore open the shutters and threw up the sash.

The street lights shone on the new fallen snow,
Then out of the distance came a mysterious glow,
And, what to my wondering eyes should appear,
But an old tractor, a wagon, and four tiny reindeer (council).

With a little old driver (Don) on the tractor so quick,
I knew on the wagon it must be Emily and St. Nick.
As quick as high speed internet his councilors they came,
And he whistled and shouted and called them by name;

Now Bonnie and Allan, on Cam and John he said with a yelp,
The food bank is in need of our help.
To the porch! To the front door!
We're collecting food for the poor.

With the donations you gave they loaded the sleigh.
From council a thank-you to all as they drove away.
And we could hear the Mayor say as they drove out of sight,
MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL, AND TO ALL A GOOD-NIGHT.

-Don Dobing, Mayor

Enforcement Services

We would like to take this opportunity to remind and encourage residents to fully utilize the Enforcement Services that the Village has contracted with Parkland County. Please report any incidents that you are concerned about by phoning Parkland Enforcement Services **at 780-968-8400** or by using the online incident reporting which can be found on the Village's website. We recommend that you phone Parkland Enforcement Services as a first point of contact so that the matter can be handled in a timely and efficient manner. Please continue to phone the Village Office, if after you have spoken to Enforcement Services you would like to make us aware of the situation.

Parkland Enforcement Services will enforce traffic, off-highway vehicles, and municipal bylaws including our animal, noise, and fireworks bylaws.

We also encourage all residents to become familiar with the Village's bylaws which are available on-line (www.springlakealberta.com)

In the last 12 months (from November 2011 to October 2012),Parkland Enforcement Services attended to 30 Calls for Service.

If you should have any questions or require further clarification, please call the Village Office.

Enforcement Services
(including Animal Control)
(780)968-8400

Christmas Office Hours

The Village Office will be closed on December 24th and will reopen on January 2nd. We will be checking phone messages and emails during this time.

Garbage & Recycling Winter Schedule

Monday's garbage and recycling pick-up has now gone to a bi-weekly schedule. Garbage and recycling will be picked up the same day with December pick up dates being the following:

Monday, December 3rd
Monday, December 17th
Monday, December 31st

PLEASE NOTE:

ALL RESIDENTS MUST MAKE SURE THAT THEIR **GARBAGE TOTES ARE REMOVED FROM THE ROADWAY MONDAY EVENINGS** TO ENSURE PROPER SNOW CLEARING CAN BE ACHEIVED. IF YOUR TOTE SHOULD BE DAMAGED DUE TO NON-REMOVAL OF THE TOTE, YOU WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE REPAIR OR REPLACEMENT COST OF THE TOTE.

Christmas Decorating Contest

The 22st Annual Christmas Decorating Contest will be judged between December 8th and 19th. Please make sure that you have your Christmas display lit up between these dates from 6pm to 8pm.

1st Prize - $100.00

2nd Prize - $50.00

3rd Prize - $25.00

Please watch the bulletin boards for the notice announcing the winners.

Santa Claus is Coming to Town …

along with Mrs. Claus and all their elves.

Santa and Mrs. Claus have let the Village Office know that they have time to stop by again this year. They will be touring the Village, starting at 4:00 p.m. in Beachview Crescent on Sunday, December 23th. Watch for the elves to come by your house to announce their arrival so you can gather the family to come out, meet Santa and get a Christmas treat.

They will also be accepting donations for the food bank, if you wish to donate.

The Santa Run will be held with weather permitting … we wouldn't want Santa to catch a cold before the big day.

Snow Clearing

The Village strives to provide the best possible snow clearing service for residents and we thank everyone for their patience while we try to accomplish this. However, snow removal is everyone's responsibility – the municipality's and the resident's. To clarify Spring Lake's snow removal, Policy #2009-05 outlines the snow removal priorities as follows:

(1) All major thoroughfares, with special consideration given to steep hills and important intersections
(2) Side streets
(3) Alleys
(4) Canada Post Mailbox Sites
(5) Private Driveways if approved under the Private Driveway Snow Removal Program

To eliminate delays and damage to equipment, we are requesting all residents to help the Village by:

- Not plowing snow from your property or driveway onto or across the road.
- Removing vehicles, equipment and other objects from the road allowance
- Remove garbage totes from the road allowance by 6am Tuesday mornings.

The municipality reserves the right to tow or remove these items so that snow plowing operations can continue without delay. Recovery, repair or replacement costs to these items will be the responsibility of the property owner.

Windrows

While clearing roads, operators may leave a" ridge" or windrow in front of some driveways. This is avoided whenever possible; however, it is part of normal snow clearing operations and is the responsibility of the resident to remove. The windrows could be minimized if residents would ensure any snow piled on their approaches as a result of their own driveway clearing operations is placed on the right hand side of the driveway as they are exiting their property.

Private Driveway Snow Removal Program

As in previous years, the Village will assist senior residents or residents with a disability with driveway clearing as per our Private Driveway Snow Removal Program Policy. If all residents within your household are over the age of 60 or have a disability, please feel free to contact the Village Office to receive more information on this program.

Internet

Spring Lake, with Parkland County and the other partners of the Intelligent Community Project, are pleased to announce the installation and operation of a new internet tower just outside the Village of Spring Lake. The new tower currently has two Internet providers with the possible addition of more service providers in the future. Xplornet Internet Services and Tera-byte services are currently available. Platinum Communications is another option that is available locally.

Please note: The Village of Spring Lake is in no way endorsing any single provider and is only supplying information to our residents.

Walking Trails

The Village continues to upgrade and construct walking paths for everyone's enjoyment. This year an additional pathway was constructed on the government road allowance that is located between McMann Drive/Smith Crescent and the lake. This pathway connects the South Meadow with Range Rd. 20 mailbox site. This Council initiative was funded by the Municipal Sustainability Initiative Grant through the Alberta Government. Next year, trails will be constructed in the Spring Lake Ranch area. All trails will be labeled on the Village Maps which can be found on the bulletin boards.

2013 Spring Lake Calendars

The EAC is once again producing a Spring Lake Calendar for 2013. All pictures in the calendar are taken by residents and feature pictures of our beautiful community including the winning photos from the 2012 Photo Contest.

Calendars can be purchase at the Village Office for $10.00 each. The calendars make perfect stocking stuffers but are only available in limited quantities.

Skating Rink

The Village Skating Rink will re-open this winter season. As we do not have enough volunteers for the rink it will be unsupervised "use at your own risk" skating.

Skating Rink Hours as follows:

Skating Rink Hours will be as follows:

Monday – Friday – 8:30am to 4:30pm

Saturday & Sunday – 9:00am to 5:00pm

Village staff will open the rink shack during Village Office hours. We will also post notices when the skating rink will be ready for skating.

Free Little Library

The Village has installed its first Free Little Library located at the mailbox site by the RV Resort. Residents are welcome to pick up a book or leave a book all free of charge. Special thanks to Rene Morrisette for bringing this idea to Council and building the library for us. We will monitor the library over the next few months to see if there is enough interest in installing a second library within the Village.

2013 Property Assessments

Property Assessment Notices will be mailed out separately from Property Tax Notices for 2013. Assessment Notices will be mailed out in March of 2013 with Property Tax Notices being mailed out in May 2013.

Please note that once you have received your Property Tax Notice it is too late to have your property assessment changed as assessments cannot be adjusted after the Appeal deadline with is 60 days after the Assessment Notices are mailed. We highly recommend each resident to closely examine their Property Assessment Notice and speak with the assessor regarding it.

If you should have any questions regarding this, please feel free to contact the Village Office.

2013 Dog Tags and Animal Control

We would like to remind all residents that currently own dogs, to please purchase your 2013 Dog Tags. The dog tags are available at the Village Office at a cost of $15 each. If your dog does not have a current tag, you may face a fine under the Animal Control Bylaw.

Animal Control is provided by Parkland Enforcement Services and they may be reached at (780) 968-8400. Residents can also drop off any stray dog at the Parkland County pound or the Edmonton Humane Society. Parkland Animal Control Services are available Monday through Thursday from 8:30am to 7:30pm, Fridays from 8:30am to 5:00pm and Saturday from 10:00am to 6:30pm. Emergency situations (i.e. vicious or injured dog) will be evaluated and may be handled after hours.

Property Maintenance

Council thanks everyone for taking the time to maintain and clean up their properties and for mowing the boulevards, ditches and road allowances next to their property. The improved appearance of our Village is noticeable and we truly appreciate everyone's contribution to this. We all care about the community we live and work in, as well as, the environmental concerns and responsibilities that come with living in a community surrounding a lake so please be conscious of the impact you may have on the lake as it is a valuable resource and we all would like to keep it that way.. **Please note:** The Village has a bylaw stating that no person shall permit accumulation of dirt, stones, old implements, automobiles, scrap iron or any other rubbish so as to cause any unsightly condition, hazard or nuisance. **We also want to remind residents that you may not clear land, cut trees or store items outside of your property boundaries**

Fire Fighting Services & Permits

Firefighting services are provided by the County of Parkland and the Town of Stony Plain. Both Fire Departments list the Village as being **6 miles (9.65 KM) from the nearest fire hall.**

Fire Permits are available at the Village Office at no charge. **A Fire Permit must be obtained for all fires** not in a contained pit. Please refer to the Open Burning ByLaw for specifications regarding fire pits and types of material that are permitted to be burned.

All fires are to be within the property lines of the person the fire permit was issued to.

Fines can be imposed if the Fire Department feels adequate caution was not taken while burning or if they respond to a fire on your property resulting from a deliberate fire set without obtaining a permit.

Street Lights

If you notice a street light in the Village that has burnt out, please contact **Fortis at 780-310-4300** and provide them with the number on the pole (if available) and the municipal address closest to the pole.

Aerial Photos

The Village has obtained a CD through AirScapes which contains 66 aerial views of the Village. We will burn copies of this CD for interested residents at a cost of $10.00 each.

Traffic Speed Limits

The speed limit in the Village is **30 km/hr**. The only exception is that part of **Range Road 20** that is posted **50 km/hr**.

Our children, our pets and we, ourselves, are too important to be targets of careless drivers speeding through the Village!

Council Meetings

The Village Council meets the second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm unless otherwise posted. If you have an item you'd like added to the Agenda, please submit it to the Village Office by noon the Friday before the meeting. All residents are encouraged to attend.

Address Change

Please remember that it is **YOUR** responsibility to ensure that the Village Office has your correct mailing address.

Art Club

The Art Club meets Monday evenings in the Council Chambers. For more information, please contact the Village Office.

Crime Watch

Some of the benefits of belonging to the Stony Plain & District Crime Prevention Association are interaction between residents to get to know your neighbors and receipt of fan-out messages of interest to the community. If you would like more information, please contact Constable Barb Roy at 780-968-7210.

Developing and Building in the Village

A Development Permit must be applied for before obtaining any Safety Code Permits necessary for new construction, additions, decks, demolition, and excavation (HOLDING TANKS & CISTERNS). This permit is to ensure that your project or home occupation conforms to the Village's Land Use ByLaw, including proper setbacks from property lines, etc.

Our Development Officer, Tony Sonnleitner, can be reached at 780-718-5479. A Real Property Report, showing the location of existing buildings and the proposed development must be submitted when applying. Application fees must accompany all Development Applications.

Safety Code Permits including electrical, plumbing, building, etc. must be obtained from **Superior Safety Codes** before beginning your project. You must apply for these permits to ensure that your project is safe and conforms to safety code regulations and must be obtained before commencing work. Permit forms and information can be found on www.superiorsafetycode.com or they are available at the Village Office.

Alberta First Call

Call before you dig – 1-800-242-3447

You must give at least two or three working days notice and have your legal land description available when you call.

Parking

The Village Land Use Bylaw states that each property must have two off-street parking stalls. Please ensure that your vehicles are parked on your property. If from time to time, this is not possible, do not impede traffic flow or block access to any other lot. Any unlicensed vehicles parked on roadways may be towed by the Village at owner's expense.

Bulletin Boards

There are eight bulletin boards throughout the Village, most of them close to your mail boxes. Council and Administration post important information from time to time so please check them when you pick up your mail.

Residents are welcome to post notices on these boards, but please remember to **date** notices to prevent their premature removal. All notices will be removed after two (2) weeks.