Spring Lake Newsletter

May 2010 – Issue 5

www.springlakealberta.com

Village of Spring Lake

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Office Hours:
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Mayor
Don Dobing

Deputy Mayor
John Buckley

Councillors
Bonnie Flesher
Allan Hagen
Cam MacDonald

Administrator
Emily House

Assistant Administrator
Sandi Gillespie-Ledwon

Public Works
Walt Eliuk & Don Shtybel
(on a weekly rotation)

Sheldon Postnikoff
(Summer Position)

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Village of Spring Lake

Message from the Mayor and Council

Council and I would like to welcome all new residents that have chosen to make the Spring Lake their home. I encourage all residents to participate in the community events that you will find mentioned in this newsletter, find posted on the Community Bulletin Boards or on the Village website. The success of these events is only possible due to the continued support we have received for all of you.

With the many changes happening in the Village, I also encourage everyone to use the Village website to keep informed. We truly have one of the most informative, easy to navigate, and up-to-date municipal websites.

Our lake is this community's most valued asset. Council has adopted Best Practices for Lakeshore Management and Preservation which is designed to better protect the lake. The responsibility of following these guidelines and other sound environmental practices falls on all of us as a community.

On behalf of Council and the Village Staff, I wish you the best this summer and remind you that this is your community, so get involved and enjoy.

- Mayor Don Dobing

By-Law Enforcement

It has been almost four months since we contracted with Parkland County to provide enforcement services for the Village. In that time, we had a lot of encouraging feedback on this service and are confident that a positive impact on the community is being made.

Municipal bylaws including noise, fireworks, burning, animal control and off-highway vehicles along with traffic violations including parking, speed, and stop sign infractions, are our top enforcement priorities.

We encourage all residents to become familiar with the municipality's bylaws which are available on-line at www.springlakealberta.com or by calling the Village Office.

If you would like to contact Parkland County Enforcement Services please call 780-968-8400 or you can report an incident online. The link to the Online Incident Reporting can be found on the Village's website.

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

2010 Dog Tags

We would like to remind all residents that currently own dogs, to please purchase your 2010 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.

A Big Thank-You

Council would like to take this opportunity to thank the residents that volunteered their time over the past year. A special thank you to the members of the Environmental Advisory Committee and to the residents that volunteered to supervised the Skating Rink. Your time and effort is very much appreciated.

Did you know ...

This year a General Election will be held in October to elect a Village Council. Please watch the bulletin boards for further information regarding Nomination and Election Dates.

Garbage and Recycling

Weekly garbage pick-up commenced on May 3, 2010 with Blue Bag pick up continuing bi-weekly. Please check the community bulletin boards, website of call the Village Office for this schedule.

If you require additional garbage pick up on a continuous basis, please contact the Village Office for costs.

Please watch for the announcement in the Fall on when bi-weekly garbage pick-up will commence.

Composting & Garbage

Residents of Spring Lake can access the Parkland Transfer Station located on Rge Rd. 11 to dispose of extra garbage and/or items that can be composted. The charge for this service is $130 a ton. For additional information, see the Village website or contact the Village office.

Art Club

The Art Club meets Monday evenings in the Council Chambers. For more information, please contact Kim Dunn at 780-892-4738.

Environmental Committee

The Environmental Advisory Committee would like to remind all residents to visit the EAC section on the Village's website. Go to Village website to get the latest information on what the Environmental Advisory Committee is doing for our community.

Celebrate Canada Community Picnic

The Village will again be hosting a Community Picnic to Celebrate Canada on Saturday, June 26 from 12:00pm to 3:00pm at the Village Office.

Bring the family and come by to enjoy a BBQ, Face Painting, Jumpy Thing, and live music provided by CLASSIC along with door prizes and other fun and games.

To add to the festivities we will also be hosting a Community Garage and Craft Sale during the picnic. If you are interested in renting a table to sell your arts, crafts or gently used household items, please contact the Village Office for information. Tables can be rented for $10 each and will be on a first come, first serve basis.

Also, come out and visit Spring Lake's Environmental Advisory Committee to hear about their latest initiatives and learn some valuable tips for proper lake and lakeshore management. After all, the lake benefits all residents and it is our responsibility to ensure the present and future health and viability of Spring Lake.

We look forward to meeting our friends and neighbors.

Land Use By-Law and Municipal Development Plan

During the Community Meetings held in July 2009 and January 2010, the need for short and long term land development plan was identified. Since January 2010, Council has been working diligently on updating the Village's existing Land Use Bylaw and creating a Municipal Development Plan to address land development within the Village of Spring Lake.

The draft Land Use Bylaw and Municipal Development Plan will be available shortly to residents followed by a public hearing to hear suggestions, comments and concerns. Please watch for an announcement on the bulletin boards and website on when the draft will be available and the scheduled date for the public hearing.

Property Assessments

You will find enclosed the Assessment Information for Residential Property Owners 2010 brochure. This brochure will explain what an assessment is and how it is determined along with an explanation on the new assessment complaint process.

Please note that the **ASSESSED VALUE** for your property is as of **July 1st, 2009.** The assessment roll will be open for inspection during regular Village Office hours.

Pursuant to Section 460 of the Municipal Government Act, you may file a complaint against your assessment with the Assessment Review Board (ARB) with the Village Administrator at the Village Office located at 990 Bauer Avenue, Spring Lake, Alberta. Your completed complaint form, agent authorization form, attachments (if any) along with the required fee of $50 for single-family residential properties and $650 for non-residential properties must be received into the Village Office no later than 4:30pm on July 13, 2010. Complaint forms and agent authorization forms are available at the Village Office or at www.springlakealberta.com. Section 460 of the Municipal Government Act and its regulations set out other requirements with which you must comply, including disclosure requirements. The Municipal Government Board has jurisdiction to deal with complaints about assessments for linear property as the assessment review board does not.

Pursuant to Sections 299 and 300 of the Municipal Government Act, all assessed persons are entitled to see or receive sufficient information about the person's property or the summary of assessment. If you wish to speak to an assessor, please contact the Village of Spring Lake Office and an assessor will be in touch with you. All other requests for information regarding the property or summary of assessment should be in writing and sent to the Village of Spring Lake Office. The Village of Spring Lake will provide the information requested within 15 days of receipt.

Property Taxes – Due June 30, 2010

Included with your 2010 Tax and Assessment Notice you will find an explanation of how property taxes are calculated. We encourage you to read this information.

Please remember that taxes are due on JUNE 30, 2010 by midnight. You may drop your tax payments in the mail slot located on the small door of the Quonset hut after office hours. Penalties will not be applied if the Village Office receives your payment on or before June 30, 2010 or if the post mark on your envelope is June 30, 2010.

A 6% penalty on your current tax levy will be applied on July 1, 2010. An additional 12% penalty on your current tax levy will applied on July 31, 2010. On January 1, 2011 an additional 18% penalty will be applied on the complete outstanding amount (previous and current tax levy and penalties.

TAX INSTALLMENT PAYMENT PLAN

For those residents that are on the Monthly Tax Payment Plan, you will find the 2010 agreement enclosed with your tax notice outlining you payments. Please sign the agreement and include it with you tax payment.

If you are interested in signing up for the tax payment program, please contact the Village Office.

Village Clean-Up

We would like to thank the Stony Plain 4-H Club for their roadside cleanup on May 1st. It is greatly appreciated.

Council would also like to thank all those residents that continue to keep their properties clean and tidy, mow the boulevards, ditches and road allowances next to their property and to those residents that have made noticeable improvements to their yards. The improved appearance of our Village is noticeable and your neighbors and the community truly appreciate your effort.

Please note: The Village has updated the Nuisance, Unsightly, and Untidy Property By-Law which is available on line at www.springlakealberta.com or at the Village Office.

Lakeshore Management Best Practices

To ensure that Spring Lake continues to be a productive, viable lake, Council initiated the Lakeshore Management and Preservation Best Practices Program in 2009. This project was started to educate residents, Village employees and Council on what should and should not be done on your property and others when living in a lake community. A few Best Practices include keeping land in its natural state 100 feet from the shoreline, no use of pesticides and fertilizers on properties adjacent to the lakeshore or meadows, and to not disturb the lakebed and shoreline. This document was mailed with the December 2009 Newsletter; however, a copy is available on www.springlakealberta.com or at the Village Office.

We would also like to remind residents that no one has the right to go beyond the boundaries of their own property when clearing land. It is the responsibility of each resident to know their legal property boundaries. Residents who proceed with clearing trees from park reserve, Village, privately owned or Accreted land may be liable in court for trespassing and damages.

Clean Up Your Dog's Waste

- A single gram of dog feces contains 23 million fecal coliform bacteria that harbour many more dangerous bacteria and viruses.
- Dog feces kills plants and grass.
- Dog feces can pollute the environment and filter its way into water supplies.
- Dog feces left behind create an unattractive environment.

TOXOCARA CANIS:

A large roundworm common in pets' waste that can infect humans, when directly or indirectly transferred to people through objects contaminated with feces.

The Village will be installing doggie waste bag dispensers in the Northeast Meadow and at the main mailboxes on Lakeside Drive and Waters Crescent and will expand this to other areas in the future. Please utilize them and help keep Spring Lake clean.

Lake Access

Spring Lake is unique as much of the land that surrounds the lake is in fact privately owned. As the land titles to the majority of this private land are very old, the owners indeed own the land right to the waters edge. This includes Spring Lake Resort which encompasses the sandy beach area. The Village does not have title to any land that surrounds the lake; however, there are sections of land that is Crown Land or Public Lands. This Public Land can be accessed by anyone but only by foot as the Crown does not condone the use of motorized vehicles on this land. The Village has created maps that will indicate walking paths, accesses to the lake and Public Lands so residents and visitors are aware of these areas. The map that is available at the Village

Fire Fighting Services & Permits

Fire fighting services are provided by the County of Parkland and the Town of Stony Plain. Both Fire Departments list the Village Office as being **9.65km 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. Only untreated wood, paper and leaves should be burned in these fire pits and a covering screen with holes no larger than 13mm is recommended. **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.

Alberta One 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.

Address Change

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

Development Permits

A Development Permit must be applied for before obtaining a Building Permit necessary for new construction, additions, decks, demolition, excavation (HOLDING TANKS & CISTERNS) and home occupations.

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.

NOTE Singlewide mobile homes are **NOT** allowed in the Village and holiday trailers **MAY NOT** be used to stay in on your property.

Traffic Speed Limits

PLEASE SLOW DOWN!!! 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!

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.

Safety Code Permits

We would like to remind residents that we secured the services of Superior Safety Codes as our sole provider of permits including electrical, plumbing, building, etc. You must apply for these permits

If you are planning on building or renovating, you must obtain the proper permits before commencing work. We encourage you to visit Superior Safety Codes at www.superiorsafetycodes.com.

Permit forms and information booklets are also available at 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 Barb Roy at 780-968-7210.

Bulletin Boards

There are seven bulletin boards throughout the Village, most of them close to your mail boxes. **Council and Administration do 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.

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. Council has added a Question/Answer section to the Agenda where residents can ask questions or comment. There is a time allotment of 15mins. All residents are encouraged to attend.

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.

Business Listings

The Village Office often receives requests for information on a wide variety of local businesses. If you own a local business and would like to promote it on the Village of Spring Lake's website, please contact the Village Office. We will list your company on our website so our residents can find you.