# Spring Lake Newsletter

June 2009 - Issue 3

www.springlakealberta.com

**Village of Spring Lake**

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**Office Hours:**
Monday – Wednesday, Friday
8:30 am to 4:30 pm
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**Mayor**
Scott Hayes

**Deputy Mayor**
Allan Hagen

**Councillors**
John Buckley
Don Dobing
Cam MacDonald

**Administrator**
Emily House

**Assistant Administrator**
Sandi Ledwon

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

Sheldon Postnikoff
*(Summer Position)*

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## Message from the Mayor and Council

***Spring has finally sprung (hopefully) and Council wishes all a fun-filled summer.***

These past few months have seen some changes in our Village, including a new Councillor. Welcome John Buckley to our team. John has jumped in with both feet and is a welcome addition.

Council has been listening these past few months to a lot of input from Village Residents and as a result have passed some new bylaws and procedures. Please take the time to visit our website, the Village Office or check the bulletin boards for updates. If you have ideas for improvements to our Village, please pass them on to us – we welcome input from our residents. I would like to thank everyone who contributed in the past few months – unfortunately, not all ideas can be implemented, but we do listen and try to respond positively.

Thanks to our Administration and Public Works for their continuous efforts in helping make this a wonderful place to live. We are expecting in the near future some progress on our cooperative efforts with Parkland County on such issues as bylaw enforcement, etc. as we move forward with providing cost effective services on an equitable cost shared basis that will benefit both communities.

Our Environmental Advisory Committee has been busy in the past few months with a well attended composting workshop this spring which is just one example of the initiatives they are working on on our behalf. The committee is now working on a new survey which is due to come out this Fall/Winter.

Wishing you and yours a safe and happy summer.

- Mayor Scott Hayes

## Message from Administration

It has been one year since I came on board as the CAO for the Village of Spring Lake. I have truly enjoyed my time here and hope to enjoy many more years to come. I want to thank all the residents, Council and my co-workers for their welcome, support and patience over the past year while I got my feet wet.

We have an exciting summer planned beginning with the Canada Day Picnic being held on July 1st. There are many children's activities, along with a BBQ and a live band so it will be a fun time for all.

We are also holding a Community Meeting for all residents so Council and Administration can answer any questions or comments that you may have. It is also the perfect time to tell us what your vision of Spring Lake is.

In response to resident's requests, we will be once again holding a Large Appliance Swap. It was a great success last year so please watch for further details on our website and bulletin boards.

In closing, Sandi and I along with Walt, Don and Sheldon would like to wish everyone a safe and enjoyable summer. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to drop by, give us a call or email us. We would love to hear from you.

-Emily House, Administrator

**Did you know ...**

The Village of Spring Lake holds an Organizational Meeting every October. At this meeting the Village Council will make resolutions on the appointment of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor, when and how Council Meetings will be conducted, appoint an auditor, decide what committee each Councillor will sit on, and signing authorities for the municipality.

**Garbage and Recycling**

The Village has had very positive comments from residents regarding the bi-weekly garbage pick up in the winter; therefore, Council has decided to move forward with this initiative again this year. Please watch for the announcement on when this will commence.

If you require an information package explaining the guidelines on proper placement of your garbage tote, please contact the Village Office.

**Art Club**

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

**Environmental Committee**

The Environmental Advisory Committee is pleased to announce that they now have a section on the Village's website. Go to www.springlakealberta.com to get the latest information or call the Village Office for more information

# Canada Day Picnic

The Village will be hosting a Canada Day Family Picnic on July 1st from 11:00am to 2:00pm at the Village Office with the rain out location being Rosenthal Hall. Along with celebrating Canada Day, we will also be celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Village being incorporated as a municipality.

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

We look forward to meeting our friends and neighbors.

# *Community Meeting*

Spring Lake has seen a change in dynamics of the Village over the last few years and with this change comes questions.

Council recognizes this and would like to invite all residents to attend the Community Meeting on July 11th at 11:00 am at the Immanuel Lutheran Church of Rosenthal located on Rge. Rd. 13 and Twp. Rd. 524

Please feel free to bring your questions, suggestions, and comments so Council and Administration can address them to ensure that the correct information is being communicated, that residents are informed about what is happening within their community and to ensure that all residents have input into future initiatives of the community.

# Enforcement of OHV's and Fireworks

The Village of Spring Lake passed By-Law #303, dealing with OHV's and By-law #302, dealing with the restriction of fireworks within the Village. Residents have had a number of questions on how these by-laws will be enforced.

For these bylaws to be effective, residents must send a written complaint to our local RCMP office for a ticket to be issued. You can fax your complaint to the Stony Plain RCMP at 780-963-0917. Please include you own contact information and a License plate number of the offending OHV, or an address that the complaint is directed to.

If you require any further information, please see www.springlakealberta.com .

# www.springlakealberta.com

It has been one year since the launch of our website and we are pleased by the positive response we have had from residents.

We update the site on a regular basis so please check back often for the latest information and notices.

Improved accessibility of information include the following:

- Unadopted Regular Council Meeting Agendas will be before a Council Meeting.
- Unadopted Regular Council Meeting Minutes will be posted within a week of a Counci Meeting
- By-Laws and Policies
- Forum to allow residents to comment and ask questions.

The Village recognizes the need for an effective way to communicate important information to residents and an appropriate medium to allow for residents to discuss issues, concerns or just to comment on what is happening within your community.

We welcome comments and suggestions on how to improve our website. You can email us at villageoffce@springlakealberta.com.

## Skating Rink – Volunteers Needed

This year the Village has not been able to get the volunteers needed to operate the skating rink. Without proper supervision of the rink, our liability insurance policy will not allow us to open it. We ask that any residents interested in volunteering to please contact the Village Office.

# Property Assessments

If you have any questions regarding your Property Assessment please contact the Village's Assessor at 1-888-419-2128. As this is a very busy time or year, please have patience and the Assessor will contact you as soon as possible. The assessment roll will be open for inspection during office hours.

Please note that the **ASSESSED VALUE** for your property is as of **July 1st, 2008.**

Pursuant to Section 460 of the Municipal Government Act, you may file a complaint in writing against your assessment to administration at the village office with the following:

- a copy of your assessment/tax notice, contact information for the complainant including phone number, detailed explanation why the complainant thinks information shown on the assessment notice is incorrect.

This complaint must be received in the Village Office on or before July 10, 2009. Every appeal must be accompanied by a one hundred fifty ($150) dollar appeal fee. The final date for complaints is a legislated time limit - it cannot be extended.

# Property Taxes

Included with your 2009 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 July 10, 2009 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 July 10, 2009 or if the post mark on your envelope is July 10, 2009.

A 6% penalty on your current tax levy will be applied on July 11, 2009. An additional 12% penalty on your current tax levy will applied on August 11th. On January 1, 2010 an additional 18% penalty will be applied on the complete outstanding amount (previous and current tax levy and penalties.

For those residents that are on the Monthly Tax Payment Plan, you will find the 2009 agreement enclosed with your tax notice outlining you payments. Please sign the agreement and include it in with you tax payment.

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

# Village Clean-Up and Clearing of Land

We would like to thank all those residents that continue to keep their properties clean and tidy and to those residents that have made noticeable improvements to their yards in the last few weeks. Your neighbors and the community truly appreciate your effort.

As 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, 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.

Council thanks everyone who is mowing the boulevards, ditches and road allowances next to their property. The improved appearance of our Village is noticeable.

**Please note:** The Village is in the process of updating the Nuisance, Unsightly, and Untidy Property By-Law. A copy of the draft is available on line at www.springlakealberta.com or please call the Village Office is you would like a copy.

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.

# Animal Control and 2009 Dog Tags

We would like to remind all residents that currently own dogs, to please purchase your 2009 Dog Tags if you have not done so. 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.

Our current Animal Control Officer is Tom Puffer and he may be reached at (780) 491-7283. If you have any problems reaching him, please feel free to contact the Village Officer during regular office hours. If it is an emergency, you also have the option of phoning the RCMP. Residents can also drop off any stray dogs at the Parkland County pound without involving the ACO.

# 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** and are required for any fire 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.

# 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!

# 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.

# Address Change

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

# Street Lights

If you notice a street light in the Village that has burnt out, please contact **Fortis at 780-310-9473** 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.

# 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.

# 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.

# 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 Fred Reeve at 780-963-3088.