Spring Lake Newsletter

May 2013 – Issue 10

Spring Lake is now on Facebook. 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
Bonnie Flesher
Jill Ferguson
Cam MacDonald

Chief Administrator Officer
Emily House

Assistant Administrator
Sandi Gillespie-Ledwon

Public Works
Ken Megill
Don Shtybel

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Message from the Mayor and Council

At last summer has arrived, it seems as though this year we went right from winter to summer and missed spring all together. Instead of writing about this summer I want to take you straight to this fall. October is the end of this Councils' term. It has been my honor to serve as your mayor and represent you on Council these past three years. I hope you agree that as a Council we have kept the Village in good order. I would like you to consider running in the civic election this fall or encourage and support someone who will.

Thanks for your support and have a great summer.

-Don Dobing, Mayor

Celebrate Canada Picnic

The Village will be hosting a Community Picnic to Celebrate Canada on **Monday, July 1** from 12:00pm to 3:00pm at the Village Office.

Bring the family and come by to enjoy a BBQ, Face Painting, Jumpy Castle and live music provided by Locomotive Ghost along with door prizes and other fun and treats.

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.

The Village asks that everyone please bring a non-perishable food item to be donated to the Parkland Food Bank to receive your food voucher for the BBQ.

Freshwater/Wastewater Survey

Residents have probably received a Freshwater/Wastewater Survey in the mail in the last couple of weeks. If you have not received one, please contact the Village Office. The purpose of this survey is to help the Village plan for the future and determine what infrastructure may be needed. As such, we have implemented a short survey to acquire more information about our resident's wastewater and freshwater systems.

Please take a moment and complete this important survey. Completed surveys can be returned by June 30, 2013 by dropping them off at the Village Office during office hours, dropping them in the mail slot on the Quonset, mailing them to the Village Office or call the office to complete them over the phone.

The Village thanks you for your time and effort in helping us plan for the future.

Large Item Round-Up

Due to overwhelming interest, the Village will once again be holding a Large Item Round-Up on **Saturday, September 7, 2013** from 11:00am to 2:00pm at the Village Office. A list of acceptable items will be available on the Village's website in August or look for notices on the bulletin boards.

Garbage & Recycling

Weekly garbage pick-up commenced on May 6, 2013 with Blue Bag pick up continuing bi-weekly. Please check the community bulletin boards, website or 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 $140 a ton. For additional information, see the Village website or contact the Village office.

2013 Property Assessments and Taxes

This year, the Village of Spring Lake sent out Property Assessment Notices separate from Property Tax Notices. Property Tax Assessment Notices were mailed in March 2013 with the Assessment Appeal Deadline of May 6, 2013. Please note that the **ASSESSED VALUE** for your property is as of **July 1st, 2012.**

PROPERTY TAXES DUE JUNE 30, 2013 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, 2013 or if the post mark on your envelope is June 30, 2013.

A 6% penalty on your current tax levy will be applied on July 1, 2013. An additional 12% penalty on your current tax levy will applied on July 31, 2013. On January 1, 2014 an additional 18% penalty will be applied on the complete outstanding amount (previous and current tax levy and penalties.

ON-LINE BANKING

The Village is currently in the process of having Spring Lake listed as a payee or creditor on most major banks on-line banking systems. Please check with the Village Office, website and bulletin boards for updates on what banks this will be available through.

TAX INSTALLMENT PAYMENT PLAN

For those residents that are on the Monthly Tax Payment Plan, you will find the 2013 agreement enclosed with your tax notice outlining your next 6 months of payments. We will no longer be accepting post-dated cheques as we are now set up to accept direct debit. If you are interested in signing up for the tax payment program, please contact the Village Office.

The Village kindly asks residents to not put grass cuttings, leaves, branches, etc. in garbage totes. Composting is the recommended method of disposal.

Art Club

The Art Club meets Monday evenings in the Council Chambers. For more information, please contact Lois at 780-892-0139.

Environmental Advisory 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.

Be a Responsible Dog Owner

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 has installed several doggie waste bag dispensers throughout the Village. We will continue to expand this initiative over the next few years as a pro-active approach to ensure that all pet owners within the Village are responsible pet owners.

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.

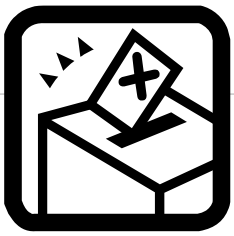
Please respect your neighbors and community and clean up after your pet

Are you Weed Wise?

No gardener in Alberta knowingly plants invasive plants. Having deep respect for the natural environment, they are diligent to keep their gardens weed-free, going to great lengths and expense to weed any pesky plants out. However, accidental or intentional some prohibited noxious weeds make their presence known in yards.

A local authority must issue a weed notice for Prohibited Noxious weeds and landowners shall destroy any weeds under this designation. The Village of Spring Lake has a weed inspector conducting random inspections and investigating complaints. The weed inspector has the authority to enter private property without landowner permission in order to conduct inspections. Weed Notices are given for Prohibited Noxious and Noxious Weeds only. Weed notices will be posted on the property where the weed infestation is found.

Copies of the Weed Control Act and Regulation can be obtained through Alberta Queen's Printer at www.qp.alberta.ca or www.springlakealberta.com.



2013 Municipal General Election

As a result of amendments to the Local Authorities Election Act in December 2012, municipal elections will now be held every 4 years. The Village of Spring Lake consists of a Council of five members. Each Council member serves a four-year term. The elected Council then elects a Mayor and Deputy Mayor from within, on an annual basis.

Nomination Day - Monday, September 23, 2013.

Nomination Eligibility - You are eligible for nomination if you meet ALL of the following criteria:

- 18 years of age on or before Nomination Day
- a Canadian citizen
- lived in Alberta for the six consecutive months immediately preceding Election Day
- a resident of Spring lake for six consecutive months immediately preceding Nomination Day
- are not otherwise ineligible or disqualified.

Election Day - Monday, October 21, 2013

Voter Eligibility - You are eligible to vote if you meet ALL of the following criteria:

- 18 years of age or over
- a Canadian citizen
- lived in Alberta for the six consecutive months immediately preceding Election Day (since April 15, 2013)
- resident of Spring Lake
- have not voted in this election before

Contacts

If you require more information on the upcoming election, please contact Deputy Returning Officer Emily House at (780) 963-4211 or by email to emily@springlakealberta.com.

Please continue to check our website for further information as it becomes available.

Note: The above is condensed information provided as assistance to the public only. For exact wording of the legislation, please refer to the Local Authorities Election Act.

Management of Black Knot

Black knot is a disease that affects trees of the Prunus species, including Mayday, choke-cherries and cherries. The fungus that causes black knot produces spores that can be wind-blown or rain-splashed from knots to the branches of healthy trees.

The first visible symptoms are small brown swellings on newer growth. Knots can expand over the seasons reaching sizes of 15cm long. In autumn, the knots turn black and become hard. Symptoms are easiest to see in late fall and early winter once the leaves have dropped from trees.

Prune out all knot bearing branches during late fall, winter or very early spring while plants are dormant. Remove infected branches to at least 15 to 20 cm below knot. As a precaution, cutting blades should be cleaned and disinfected after pruning.

For knots on scaffold branches or trunks that cannot be easily removed, cut away diseased tissue down to a good wood or at least 1 cm beyond the edge of the knot. Failure to remove branches beyond the internal growth will result in re-growth of the fungus. Diseased wood must be destroyed immediately (burned or removed from site). Diseased branches with knots can produce and release spores for up to 4 months after removal.

Looking at your trees on a regular basis to ensure they are healthy and being able to spot problems at early stages.

Consider selecting trees varieties with disease resistance for new plantings. Avoid planting new trees near areas with known problems. Chemical management is not normally recommended and there are few products actually available. Pruning is the best option for management of black knot.

ByLaw Enforcement

The Village contracts enforcement services with Parkland County which includes noise, fireworks, burning, animal control, traffic and off-highway vehicles Municipal bylaws along with traffic violations including parking, speed, and stop sign infractions, are our top enforcement priorities.

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. **We encourage residents to report any incidents as this helps ensure that we are enforcing the areas where it is needed most.**

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!

Parking

The Village Land Use Bylaw states that each property must have two off-street parking stalls. The Village recently passed an updated Traffic ByLaw which includes a provision that prohibits parking on the road or ditches between the hours of 8:00am to 4:30pm Monday to Friday, excluding holidays, except for designated parking areas.

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.

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.

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.

Bulletin Boards

There are eight 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.

Address Change

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

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.

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.

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.

Spring Lake 2013 Calendars

2013 Spring Lake Calendars are still available at the Village Office for $10 each. All pictures in the Calendar are taken by residents and feature our beautiful community.