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Winter 2019/2020 Issue

MD ADMIN HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSURE

MONDAY • Dec 23 **OPEN** • Dec 30 **OPEN**

TUESDAY • Dec 24 **CLOSED** • Dec 31 **OPEN**

WEDNESDAY • Dec 25 **CLOSED** • Jan 1 **CLOSED**

THURSDAY • Dec 26 **CLOSED** • Jan 2 **OPEN**

FRIDAY • Dec 27 **CLOSED** • Jan 3 **OPEN**



DATES TO REMEMBER

December:

7th— Christmas in Granum

8th— Bluegrass & Country Music
Open Jam 12:30-5pm
@Clareholm Legion

11th— Council & ASB Meeting

18th— Council & MPC Meeting

20th— Clareholm Pool X-mas
Party 2-4pm

31st— Clareholm New Year's
Eve Family Skate 6-9pm

January:

8th— Council & ASB Meeting

15th— Council & MPC Meeting

February:

15th— Council & ASB Meeting

17th— Family Day-Office **CLOSED**

26th— Council & MPC Meeting

**FOR TIMES AND LOCATIONS OF
EVENTS CHECK THE WEBSITE OR
CALL 403-625-3351**

Municipal Tax Deadline Reminder

Any tax amount outstanding as of November 1st, 2019 has been subject to a 10% penalty.

To ensure no further penalties, please contact our office to pay any outstanding taxes owing. Any tax amount left outstanding as of January 1st, 2020 will be subject to a further 2% penalty.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact our Tax Department at: 403-625-3351 ext. 226

Merry
Christmas

- From the Staff at the MD of Willow Creek -

The Municipal District of Willow Creek acknowledges the results of the Town of Granum Vote of Electors on the Question arising from the Viability Review – that the citizens of the Town of Granum have voted 74% in support of the resolution to dissolve the Town of Granum and become part of the Municipal District of Willow Creek.

The results of this vote will now be included in the Viability Report which will then be reviewed by the Minister of Municipal Affairs and a decision made by the Cabinet that will determine the final outcome of this process.

Should an Dissolution Order in Council be issued by the Cabinet we as a Council are prepared to engage the citizens of the Town of Granum through a proactive and positive process which will seek to ensure that the culture, traditions, history and institutions of the community are acknowledged and considered through the decisions that arise through the process of democratic governance.

As such following the completion of the Ministerial Review and following a Cabinet Order in Council being issued to dissolve the Town of Granum the Municipal District of Willow Creek will undertake public consultations with the residents of the Town of Granum on matters of important relevance including: public infrastructure, governance and representation, public services and community institutions and other matters that are of concern and interest to the citizens of the community.

The citizens of the Town of Granum are not strangers to us – they are our friends and neighbors.

It is our intention to wholeheartedly welcome these new citizens of the M.D. of Willow Creek into our community and to begin at once the work to implement the necessary processes to make the transition as efficient and effective as possible.

The Council of the Municipal District of Willow Creek

CAO Message

I began my tenure with the MD of Willow Creek as the Chief Administrative Officer in September and in that short time I have been impressed with the dedication and commitment of the staff here at the MD to provide quality service to the citizens of the municipality.

It has been a pleasure to work with the Council who are professional in all regards; knowledgeable and dedicated to providing quality governance and guidance to our municipality.

There are many challenges before us as a community as we seek to address aging infrastructure, changing legislation, reductions in grant funding and issues such as the downloading of provincial policing costs among others in the coming years – however I am confident that our organization will address these issues effectively.

On behalf of the Municipal District of Willow Creek I extend to you a Merry Christmas and Best Wishes for a Happy and Prosperous New Year!

Derrick Krizsan C.L.G.M.

Chief Administrative Officer

Municipal District of Willow Creek

Reeve's Message

As 2019 is coming to an end and we all look forward to a new year, let me reflect on what your M.D. Council and Administration has been and will be doing.

At the end of August with the retirement of CAO Cindy Vizzutti, Council hired Derrick Krizsan (an experienced CAO with deep rural roots from the MD. of Taber). Welcome Derrick.

IDPs (Intermunicipal Development Plans) and ICFs (Intermunicipal Collaborative Frameworks) mandated by the Provincial Government to be completed by April 1, 2020 between neighboring municipalities have kept us all busy. These plans are intended to encourage municipalities across the Province to communicate better and work together to plan land use and reduce the duplication of services and infrastructures. We have completed IDPs with all 7 neighboring rural municipalities and are still diligently working on ones with our urban municipalities within the M.D. ICFs are completed with 3 of 7 rural neighbors and we are working on trying to complete the other 4 rurals & the ones with each of the 4 towns within the M.D. Thank you to those who participated in the Public Open Houses and gave us your feedback. Negotiations have and will always keep our rural agricultural interests and livelihoods at the forefront.

The Town of Granum has voted to dissolve as a Town and join the M.D. We await the final word from Minister Madu of Municipal Affairs and the Cabinet with the issuance of an Order in Council. In anticipation that it is not likely they will go against the vote results, we intend to welcome the good people of Granum into the M.D. and will enter into consultations/discussions with local volunteer groups and societies regarding the future of community institutions which include recreation, library and cultural programs and facilities which currently operate within the Town. The M.D. Council values all community volunteers and groups working to make and keep Granum a viable community and look forward to working with you all.

Rural Crime and Policing Costs – With the Province passing on Policing costs, we are certain of at least a 15% increase in our expense budget with no increase in revenue. This is in addition to the cost of our current CPO (Community Police Officers) program, with no guarantee in increased service from the RCMP as they are already understaffed in many detachments. Council had the opportunity to meet with the RCMP & the Justice Minister at the RMA Conference in Edmonton to discuss this and rural crime, trespassing, and other issues. We were told rural crime is decreasing however, people are still concerned especially when it is still occurring, response times are still too long and with the delay in procedures – like the time it took to charge those trespassers at Jumbo Valley Turkey farm north of Fort Macleod. We are grateful that the Province recognized they needed to beef up legislation to protect farm/ranch property and livelihoods regarding trespassing on private property. We will continue to communicate with the RCMP detachments in the MD and keep them aware of our/your concerns and we will try to get the best policing that we can.

These are but a few of the issues we are facing in 2020. This Council is always working for you and are planning a Strategic Planning Retreat in the new year (at the MD Office not anywhere exotic!!). Please let us know of any ideas you can give us for the future of this MD.

A very Blessed Merry Christmas to each and everyone in the M.D. of Willow Creek and our neighbors.

On behalf of the entire Council – Glen Alm, Evan Berger, John Kroetsch, Darry Markle, Ian Sundquist, John Van Driesten

Reeve Maryanne V. Sandberg

Winter Holiday Safety

Winter holidays are a time for families and friends to get together. But that also means a greater risk for fire. Following a few simple tips will ensure a happy and fire-safe holiday season.



HOLIDAY DECORATING

- Be careful with holiday decorations. Choose decorations that are flame resistant or flame retardant.
- Keep lit candles away from decorations and other things that can burn.
- Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use, but not both.
- Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of light strands to connect.
- Use clips, not nails, to hang lights so the cords do not get damaged.
- Keep decorations away from windows and doors.



HOLIDAY ENTERTAINING

- Test your smoke alarms and tell guests about your home fire escape plan.
- Keep children and pets away from lit candles.
- Keep matches and lighters up high in a locked cabinet.
- Stay in the kitchen when cooking on the stovetop.
- Ask smokers to smoke outside. Remind smokers to keep their smoking materials with them so young children do not touch them.
- Provide large, deep ashtrays for smokers. Wet cigarette butts with water before discarding.



Before Heading Out or to Bed

Blow out lit candles when you leave the room or go to bed. **Turn off** all light strings and decorations before leaving home or going to bed.

FACTS

- ❗ **One-third** of home decoration fires are started by candles.
- ❗ **Two of every five** decoration fires happen because decorations are placed too close to a heat source.



**NATIONAL FIRE
PROTECTION ASSOCIATION**

The leading information and knowledge resource
on fire, electrical and related hazards

CLARESHOLM ARENA & AGRIPLEX

ARENA:

Mondays — 7:30am-3:30 pm Open Ice, 3:45pm-5:00pm Public Skate

Tuesdays-Thursdays— 7:30am-4:00pm Open Ice

Fridays— 7:30am-1:30pm Open Ice

For more information go to www.claresholm.ca or call 403-625-2595

AGRIPLEX:

For more information go to www.claresholmagriplex.ca, call 403-625-2410 or email clhmagriplex@telus.net

NANTON ARENA & AGRIPLEX

ARENA:

Mondays— 3:30-4:30 Shinny

Tuesdays— 3:15pm-4:00pm Public Skate

Wednesdays— 3:30pm-4:15pm Shinny

Thursdays— 3:15pm-4:30pm Public Skate

Fridays— 1:15pm-2:15pm Public Skate, 2:15pm-3:15pm Shinny

Saturdays— 4:30pm-5:15pm Public Skate

For more information go to www.nanton.ca or call 403-646-2522

AGRIPLEX:

For more information go to www.nantonagsociety.com or email nantonagsociety@gmail.com

FORT MACLEOD ARENA & AGRIPLEX

ARENA:

Tuesdays-Thursdays— 3:30pm-4:45pm Public Skate

Fridays— 3:30pm-4:45pm and 6:30pm-7:45pm Public Skate

Sundays— 12:30pm-2:00pm Public Skate

For more information call 403-553-4101

AGRIPLEX:

For more information go to www.midnightstadium.ca or call 403-795-0064

STAVELY ARENA & AGRIPLEX

ARENA:

For more information call 403-549-3788

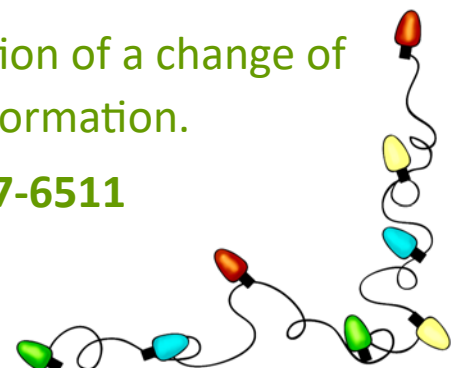
AGRIPLEX:

For more information call John at 403-646-5990 or visit www.stavelyprorodeo.com

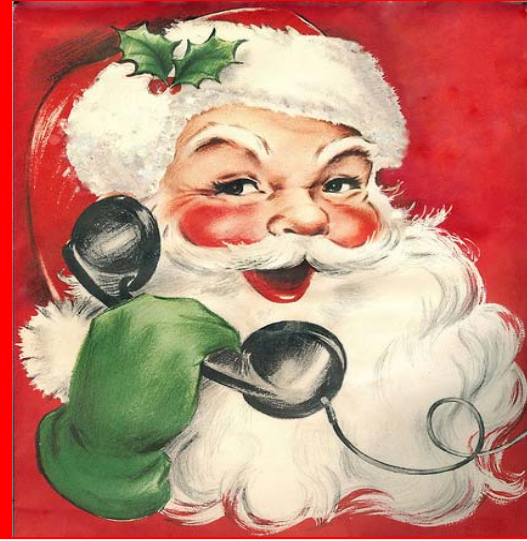


LAND TITLES OFFICE requires notification of a change of address in order to update your title information.

Contact Land Titles Office at **403-297-6511**



**REMEMBER TO
CALL THE MD DEVELOPMENT OFFICE
TO ARRANGE FOR AN APPOINTMENT
Phone: (403) 625-3351 ext. 230 or 235**



MUNICIPAL BUSINESS LICENCE RENEWAL JANUARY 1, 2020

MD Residents Business Licence — \$25/year

Regional Business Licence

(For MD Residents only, that hold a valid MD Business Licence) — \$80/year

Non-Resident Licence — \$50/year

Remember to send in your updated information and ask for your business information to be added to the MD Business Directory at no charge.



Brenda Stockton, Development Officer • Brenda@mdwillowcreek.com • (403) 625-3351 ext.230

For more information on Licence Application or Home Builder Frequently Asked Questions please visit: <http://www.alberta.ca/builder-licensing.aspx> or Email: builderlicensing@gov.ab.ca or Call: 1(866) 421-6929

Willow Creek Regional Landfill Holiday Hours

December 24th - 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Christmas & Boxing Day - CLOSED

December 27th - 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

December 30th - 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

December 31st - 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

January 1st - CLOSED

January 2nd & 3rd - 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Regular hours will resume on January 6, 2020

The Willow Creek Regional Landfill staff, management and Board of Directors would like to wish their customers, neighbors and friends the joy and peace of the Christmas Season and continued health and prosperity in the New Year!

Cold Weather Driving Tips

- Keep a bundle of cold-weather gear in your car, such as extra food and water, warm clothing, a flashlight, a glass scraper, blankets, medications, and more.
- Make certain your tires are properly inflated and have plenty of tread.
- Keep at least half a tank of fuel in your vehicle at all times.
- Never warm up a vehicle in an enclosed area, such as a garage.
- Do not use cruise control when driving on any slippery surface, such as on ice and snow.



Tips for Driving in the Snow

- Stay home. Only go out if necessary. Even if you can drive well in bad weather, it's better to avoid taking unnecessary risks by venturing out.
- Drive slowly. Always adjust your speed down to account for lower traction when driving on snow or ice.
- Accelerate and decelerate slowly. Apply the gas slowly to regain traction and avoid skids. Don't try to get moving in a hurry and take time to slow down for a stoplight. Remember: It takes longer to slow down on icy roads.
- Increase your following distance to five to six seconds. This increased margin of safety will provide the longer distance needed if you have to stop.
- Know your brakes. Whether you have antilock brakes or not, keep the heel of your foot on the floor and use the ball of your foot to apply firm, steady pressure on the brake pedal.
- Don't stop if you can avoid it. There's a big difference in the amount of inertia it takes to start moving from a full stop versus how much it takes to get moving while still rolling. If you can slow down enough to keep rolling until a traffic light changes, do it.
- Don't stop going up a hill. There's nothing worse than trying to get moving up a hill on an icy road. Get some inertia going on a flat roadway before you take on the hill.

Tips for Long-Distance Winter Trips

- Be Prepared. Have your vehicle checked before hitting the road.
- Check the Weather. Check the weather along your route and when possible, delay your trip if bad weather is expected.
- Stay Connected. Before hitting the road, notify others and let them know your route, destination and estimated time of arrival.
- **If you get stuck in the snow:**
 - Stay with your vehicle. Your vehicle provides temporary shelter and makes it easier for rescuers to locate you. Do not try to walk in a severe storm. It is easy to lose sight of your vehicle in blowing snow and become lost.
 - Don't over exert yourself. When digging out your vehicle, listen to your body and stop if you become tired.
 - Be Visible. Tie a brightly colored cloth to the antenna of your vehicle or place a cloth at the top of a rolled up window to signal distress. At night, keep the dome light on if possible. It only uses a small amount of electricity and will make it easier for rescuers to find you.
 - Clear the Exhaust Pipe. Make sure the exhaust pipe is not clogged with snow, ice or mud. A blocked exhaust pipe can cause deadly carbon monoxide gas to leak into the passenger compartment of the vehicle while the engine is running.
 - Stay Warm. Use whatever is available to insulate your body from the cold. This could include floor mats, newspapers or paper maps. Pre-pack blankets and heavy clothing to use in case of an emergency.
 - Conserve Fuel. If possible, only run the engine and heater long enough to remove the chill. This will help to conserve fuel.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

DEMOLISHING A BUILDING



In order to take down most building a demolition permit will be required.

A demolition permit is a requirement under the Provincial Safety Codes Act and may be obtain through the MD's contracted agency, Superior Safety Codes Inc.

Final inspection for a demolition permit takes place once demolition, including the removal of any foundation, has been completed. An inspection is done in order to confirm that utilities have been correctly disconnected and that the post demolition site is safe.

The Alberta Occupational Health and Safety Code (OHS) requires that all chemical (insulation, asbestos, air conditioning systems etc.) and biological substances (mould, animal or human waste etc.) that could pose a hazard during demolition must be removed from the building before demolition.

Builders and homeowners are responsible for proper management of Construction & Demolition waste. Ask your contractor to provide a scale slip confirming that the waste was disposed of properly.

DISPOSAL OF CONSTRUCTION & DEMOLITION MATERIAL

Under the Environmental and Protection and Enhancement Act burning certain material is illegal.

The Willow Creek Regional Landfill is a class 2 landfill and is authorized to take most construction and demolition material. Please contact the landfill for a list of acceptable solid waste.

The MD will not issue a burn permit to burn demolished buildings unless a demolition permit has been obtained.

The MD may inspect a property prior to issuing a burn permit for the burning of a demolished building. An inspection will confirm that only acceptable waste will be burnt.

Recycle:

- * Check the Yellow Pages under "Building Materials—Used" for companies that deal in used building supplies.
- * Some charities need furniture and appliances in good working order. Check the Yellow Pages under "Second Hand Stores or Building Materials".
- * Websites such as Kijiji and Facebook "Buy & Sell" will facilitate connecting with someone that may reuse some of the waste.
- * Consider a renovation yard sale, classifies ads or call second hand building material outlets.
- * The landfill recycles certain types of waste.



Important Numbers

Superior Safety Codes Inc. 1-877-320-0734 : Willow Creek Landfill 403-687-2603 : AB Recycle Line 1-800-463-8320