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PHONE: (403) 625-3351
www.mdwillowcreek.com

MD of Willow Creek

SPRING 2020 ISSUE

WATCH FOR...

The 2020 Municipal Taxes are to be distributed in early June via Canada Post

If your mailing address has changed in the last year, please contact the Taxation Department to ensure they are delivered correctly

(403) 625-3351 ext. 226

WE NO LONGER SEND OUT RECIEPTS FOR CHEQUES THAT ARE MAILED TO OUR OFFICE UNLESS STATED YOU WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE ONE

For information on TIPPS or how to enroll

- Check our website at **www.mdwillowcreek.com**
- Call the MD Office Tax Department

Ways you can update your information:

1. In person at the office
2. Call the MD office
3. Email us at **md26@mdwillowcreek.com**
4. Checkout the Departments Tab and Assessment & Taxation section. A fillable online form is on the website for rate payers to complete then email to us.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

MARCH

11th— Council & MPC Meeting

25th— Council & ASB Meeting

APRIL

8th— Council & MPC Meeting

10th— Office CLOSED

22nd— Council & ASB Meeting

MAY

13th— Council & MPC Meeting

18th— Office CLOSED

27th— Council & ASB Meeting

FOR TIMES & LOCATIONS OF EVENTS CHECK THE WEBSITE OR CALL THE OFFICE

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Fire, RCMP & Ambulance: 911
Bullying Helpline: 1-888-456-2323
Child Abuse Line (24hrs): 403-297-2995
Crimestoppers (24hrs): 1-800-222-8477
Distress Centre: 403-266-HELP (4357)
Kids Help Phone: 1-800-668-6868

COUNCIL MESSAGE

The year has certainly started off with a number of significant events for our municipal community.

As many know, the Town of Granum voted 74% in favor of dissolution in November. On January 29th, the MD was informed by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs that the Order in Council officially dissolving the Town had been issued by the Lieutenant Governor of Alberta effective February 1st. Fortunately much work had been accomplished by our administration in preparing for this event prior to the announcement.

An open house in the Hamlet of Granum on February 26 saw 75 residents of the Hamlet have the opportunity to meet MD Council members and staff, and to view information related to municipal services as well as other matters related to the Hamlet. It was a great event which fostered a better understanding by all. Although the Hamlet's infrastructure issues are challenging, they will be addressed in a timely manner realizing that the time to accomplish all matters on the lengthy (and costly!) list will take many years.

It was officially revealed in December 2019 that beginning April 1, 2020 , all municipalities within the Province of Alberta will be paying policing costs. Previously, the Province paid the cost for municipalities under 5000 population (MD Willow Creek). This starts at 10% of costs in budget year 2020 ($139,000 for the M.D.) and escalates to 30% of costs in budget year 2024 ($419,000 for the M.D.).

This is a significant new provincial tax which will appear on the municipal property tax notice alongside the School Foundation Fund tax. It is unfortunate that municipal taxpayers will be paying for a service for which we have no ability to provide operational input: its simply "Here's the bill - Pay it!" As a council, we will continue to be vocal with our opposition to this new downloaded cost on municipal citizens for a service which should be covered by the plentiful revenues already generated by the province.

We have come to understand that additional services that have been provided by the province are being reduced – in particular, we are deeply concerned with the reduction of staff at Alberta Agriculture who have provided services directly to the agricultural community for many years. The loss of valuable knowledge and expertise of not only the local experts, but also those of the network of specialists (all of whom have been but a phone call away) will be felt by our producers who, although understanding of the changes that inevitably occur during tough financial times, are also facing economic challenges and rely on expert advice. Along with the loss of staff, there is a concern that volumes & terabytes of information which have been gathered over decades may no longer be available for analysis and use.

On a local level, the work on the Intermunicipal Development Plans with the Town of Stavely, Town of Claresholm and the Town of Fort Macleod continue to progress with details to be worked out. We are hopeful that collaborative solutions to matters that have arisen will be resolved in a timely way.

It appears as if we will be successfully concluding the Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework agreements prior to the April 1, 2020 deadline. Agreements are in place with the 6 rural municipalities which border the M.D. and final details on the Willow Creek Regional Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework Agreement are being completed. Work will continue to develop an agreement on recreation funding with our urban neighbors upon conclusion of the ICF agreement.

Another agreement that is nearing completion is the Intermunicipal Emergency Services Agreement which is a contractual agreement between the M.D. and the Towns of Nanton, Stavely, Claresholm and Fort Macleod. The single most significant principle of this agreement is that it will ensure that no matter where you live within the M.D. of Willow Creek, you will be able to receive an identical level of service.

The arrival of the new calves (for some of us and for others, lambs, kids or foals) has signaled the start of a new production cycle and as the daylight hours begin to get longer, our thoughts are once again turning to farming, field work and ranching. We wish you the best of luck in 2020 and hope for warmer weather, timely rains and good prices.

Sincerely,

The Council of the Municipal District of Willow Creek

Your unwanted computers, TVs and old paint aren't doing any good hanging around, but they will if you recycle them.

Bring your old computers, TVs and paint to:

The Town of Fort Macleod/ MD of Willow Creek No. 26 - Residents
House Hold Toxic Waste & Electronic Recycle Round Up
Saturday June 06/2020 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Located at the parking lot across from the Fort Museum
Highway 3 West (25th St) and 3rd Avenue

Visit **www.albertarecycling.ca** or call **1.888.999.8762** for more information on electronics and paint recycling in your area.

Alberta recycling
www.albertarecycling.ca | electronics | paint | tires

Difference between a Development Permit and a Building Permit

DEVELOPMENT PERMIT

- Deals with a development's impact on surrounding properties and allows for the legal use of land/building in a particular manor.
- Issued by the MD.
- Required under the Municipal Land Use Bylaw.
- Applications are submitted directly to the MD.
- The Municipal Government Act is the Provincial guiding legislation.
- The MD enforces the Municipal Land Use Bylaw requirements under the Municipal Government Act.

Contact the Planning and Development Dept. at (403) 625-3351 ext. 230 or 235 to arrange an appointment

BUILDING PERMIT

- Deals with the structural stability of buildings and the health and safety of the buildings occupants.
- All Safety Codes Permits, including Building Permits are issued by Superior Safety Codes Inc. on behalf of the MD.
- Required under the Safety Codes Act.
- The Safety Codes Act is the Provincial guiding legislation.
- Applications are submitted to Superior Safety Codes Inc.
- The MD enforces Safety Codes requirements under the Safety Codes Act.

Contact Superior Safety Codes at 1 (877) 320-0734 to arrange an appointment

BUILDING CODE TIPS…

Building Permits are REQUIRED for the following types of projects:

- New construction
- Additions
- Renos that involve structural changes
- Basement development
- Decks greater than 2' above grade
- Wood burnings appliances (wood stove or fireplace)
- Pole sheds that aren't used for the operation of a farm

PLANNING A DEVELOPMENT PROJECT?

Remember to call the MD Office to arrange for an appointment with your Development Dept. at (403) 625-3351 ext. 230 or 235

The month of May brings warmer weather and Albertans are eager to enjoy the outdoors. At this time of year, the Office of the Fire Commissioner is reminding Albertans of the importance of fire safety when camping and heading outdoors.

Before starting a campfire, check to see if your community has a fire ban in place at albertafirebans.ca.

M.D. CAMPGROUNDS

Pine Coulee, Willow Creek and Clear Lake will be open in May. Check the MD of Willow Creek website, call the office or the Parks Manager at (403) 625-6239 for updated information.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES IN THE MD OF WILLOW CREEK

Nanton— (403) 646-5535
Sunday & Monday—CLOSED
Tuesday-Friday—10am to 6pm
Saturday—11am to 4pm
1907 21 Avenue, Nanton T0l 1R0

Stavely— (403) 549-2190
Monday—1:30 to 6pm
Tuesday—9am to 5pm
Wednesday—12:30am to 6pm
Thursday—1:30am to 5pm
Friday, Saturday & Sunday—CLOSED
4823 49 St, Stavely T0L 1Z0

Claresholm— (403) 625-4168
Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday—10am to 5:30pm
Thursday—10am to 8pm
Friday—10am to 5:30pm
Saturday—10am to 3pm
Sunday—CLOSED
211 49 Avenue West, Claresholm T0L 0T0

Granum— (403) 687-3912
Saturday, Sunday & Monday—CLOSED
Tuesday & Wednesday—10am to 4pm
Thursday—2pm to 5pm
Friday—11am to 4pm
310 Railway Ave, Granum T0L 1A0

Fort MacLeod— (403) 553-3880
Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday—9am to 5pm
Thursday—1pm to 8pm
Friday & Saturday—10am to 2pm
Sunday—CLOSED
264 24 St, Fort MacLeod T0L 0Z0

SAFE ROADS

Motorcycles are back on the roads and are sometimes not as visible. Watch out for them and if you are a rider, be mindful of your surroundings as well. Enjoy your ride safely.

Recreational Vehicles have wide turning patterns and may have to swing into another lane to round a corner. If you are towing a trailer, make sure the hitch is suitable for the trailer's weight and is fitted with approved safety chains or cables. RV's are heavy and take longer to stop and are more difficult to steer around other vehicles or in a windstorm.

School Buses will display red flashing lights when children are getting on or off the bus and could be crossing the road in the process. If you encounter a school bus with flashing lights, STOP! Do not proceed until the bus driver has de-activated the red flashing lights.

Slow moving **Farm Equipment** will be on the roads for spring cultivating, seeding and fertilizing and will be putting in some long days. Make sure lights on equipment are functioning and visible.

Information on everything from Commercial Vehicles to car seats can be found on the Government of Alberta website at **saferoads.com**

Road Allowance Invoices will be sent out in May 2020

Watch for those in the mail! Contact the Utilities Department if you have any questions at (403) 625-3351 ext.260

ROAD BANS

Will be in effect anytime between **Mid-March** to **Early May.** With the warmer weather conditions the frost is starting to come out of the ground. As the frost comes out the roads get very soft, especially on the shoulders. The MD of Willow Creek puts the road bands on to minimize the amount of damage done to our roads.

All our **oiled roads will be banned at 75%** (except TWP 140 by Clear Lake, TWP 93 & 95, which are banned at 50% year round) and our **gravel roads at 100%.** Check the MD website for updated information on these Road Bans.

When the posted road bans are in effect, we have 2 Community Peace Officers patrolling the roads for overweight trucks. If caught with an overload truck on a banned road the fines can be expensive, so please keep your loads under the weight restrictions put in place. If you see anyone using a banned road and expect that they are overloaded, please get in touch with the MD Office at and we will send someone to investigate.

—Check the MD website for details on maximum allowable weights for highways & bridges—

ASB EQUIPMENT RENTALS

Various Equipment & Services are available for use by rate payers of the MD of Willow Creek.

**Please note that the prices may subject to change.*

Weed Control

- Various Slip Tank spray units: $15/day w/ $100 deposit
- Backpack Sprayer: no charge w/ $100 deposit

Livestock Equipment

- Scale: $100/day w/ $500 deposit
- Tag Reader: no charge w/ $500 deposit

Soil Conservation Equipment

- Manure Spreader: $300/day w/ $1000 deposit
- Straw Incorporator: $100/day w/ $200 deposit
- Bale Shedder: $100/day w/ $500 deposit
- Broadcast Seeder (handheld): no charge
- Pipeline Plow: $50/day w/ $200 deposit

Animal Control

- Skunk & Magpie Trap: no charge w/ $70 deposit

If you have any questions check out the ASB Program & Services page on our website or contact ASB directly at (403) 625-3351 ext. 229 or 249.

SPRING HOME MAINTENANCE

Spring is the time of year when we give our homes the once over and assess any winter damage

Checklist to get your home spring-ready:

1. Inspect roofing
2. Change air conditioner filter
3. Clean windows and door screens and replace if necessary
4. Refinish the deck
5. Power wash windows and siding
6. Remove debris from gutters and downspouts
7. Replace batteries in smoke alarms & carbon monoxide detectors
8. Inspect and pump the septic tank
9. Inspect bathroom and kitchen caulking
10. Vacuum dryer vent
11. Repair or replace caulking and weather stripping around windows, doors and mechanicals
12. Have air conditioning system serviced
13. Drain or flush water heater
14. Fertilize your lawn
15. Replace furnace filter

2% Liquid Strychnine for gopher control is available for agricultural producers only.

To ensure ASB staff is available please contact 403-625-3351 in advance.

NOW IS THE TIME! GET THEM EARLY!

WILLOW CREEK REGIONAL LANDFILL

LOCATED AT: 113053 Range Road 263 (South of Claresholm)

HOURS & DAYS OPEN CAN VARY SO PLEASE CALL PRIOR TO VISIT AT (403) 687-2603

BE A DONOR!

There is a constant need for Blood, Plasma, Stem Cells, Organs & Tissues in Canada. Every minute of everyday someone in Canada needs one of these.

Please consider donating. More information can be found at www.blood.ca, 1 888 236-6283 or feedback@blood.ca

BUSINESS LICENCE RENEWAL IS PAST DUE!

To obtain your Business Licence or if you have any questions contact:

Brenda Stockton– Development Officer

(403) 625-3351 ext. 230

brenda@mdwillowcreek.com

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

Report a Wildfire

What You Need to Know:

The 310-FIRE line was created as a means for the public to report wildfires in the forested areas. If you see fire threatening a community, call 9-1-1 immediately.

Calling 310-FIRE (3473) is quick and easy and is available toll free, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. If you see a wildfire or suspicious smoke— regardless of where or when it happens— please make the call.

When calling, here are some tips about the kind of information needed:

1. Where is the fire?

Depending on where the fire is, info such as an address, landmark or nearby road will help in determining the location.

2. How is the fire burning?

Supplying details about the appearance and behavior will help determine what resources to assign.

3. Other relevant information

What's in the immediate area?

Is there road access?

Is it a high traffic area?

Is there a water source nearby?

Rural Property Safety Tips

As the warmer weather is upon us, many creatures will be coming out of hibernation, including thieves. Here are some tips for you to do your best to protect your home from criminals:

- Keep your home, garages and vehicles locked at all times.
- Secure sliding windows & doors.
- Remove all valuables (including pocket change) from parked vehicles.
- Use motion sensor lights for the exterior of your home.
- If you will be away from your home for a longer period of time, have someone you trust check it periodically. Use timers on interior lights. Don't share vacation plans on social media.
- Consider installing camera surveillance, an intrusion alarm or an alarm to notify you when someone pulls into your driveway.
- Report suspicious people/vehicles to police in a timely fashion. **Know your rural address.**
- BE NEIGHBORLY—get to know your neighbors and look out for one another. You can keep each other informed about suspicious activity in your area.