



PO BOX 550 CLARESHOLM, AB T0L 0T0

273129 SECONDARY HWY 520

PHONE: (403) 625-3351 FAX: (403) 625-3886

M-F: 8:00 A.M. TO 4:00 P.M.

www.mdwillowcreek.com

**COMBINED ASSESSMENT &
TAX NOTICES WILL BE MAILED**

JUNE 26, 2020

TAXES ARE DUE BY OCTOBER 31, 2020

**A 10% PENALTY WILL BE LEVIED ON ANY
TAXES POSTMARKED AFTER THIS DATE.**

**DEADLINE FOR ASSESSMENT APPEALS IS
SEPTEMBER 4, 2020**

***NOTE* Please review your concerns with the
assessor prior to filing your appeal**

**WE NO LONGER SEND OUT RECEIPTS FOR
PAYMENTS UNLESS STATED YOU WOULD
LIKE TO RECEIVE ONE**

2020 Assessment Inquiries:

Logan Wehlage, Assessment Consultant

Benchmark Assessment Consultants Inc.

(403) 381-0535

lwehlage@benchmarkassessment.ca

HAS YOUR CONTACT INFO CHANGED?

email us at taxes@mdwillowcreek.com or
call the office at (403) 625-3351

**Need an MD of Willow
Creek Map?**

Wall Maps— 24" x 36" are
\$20

Book Maps— 8.5" x 11" are
\$25



DATES TO REMEMBER

JUNE

10th— Council & MPC Meeting

24th— Council & ASB Meeting

JULY

1st—Office CLOSED for Canada Day

8th— Council & MPC Meeting

22nd— Council & ASB Meeting

AUGUST

3rd—Office CLOSED for Heritage Day

12th— Council & MPC Meeting

26th— Council & ASB Meeting

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

Our Community Peace Officers are

**Adam Schneider & Andrea Young and are
available 7 days a week.**

**If you require their attention please get in
touch by calling the Bylaw Complaint Line
at (403) 625-2248**

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Fire, RCMP & Ambulance: 9-1-1

Child Abuse Line (24hrs): 403-297-2995

Crimestoppers (24hrs): 1-800-222-8477

Kids Help Phone: 1-800-668-6868

COUNCIL MESSAGE

Since our last newsletter, COVID 19 has certainly changed the world and life as we knew it.

At least on farms, ranches & acreages, we can go outside and have our freedom – our hearts go out to those living in apartments or condos staring at four walls. Now that restrictions are being lifted bit by bit, people can start to live a bit more normal (however one defines “normal “now).

Since the end of March 2020, Council has held all of their meetings via ZOOM from their homes. It certainly has been different; however, we have adapted and it is living proof that you can teach an old dog new tricks!!! That being said, we will be going back to Council Chambers on June 10th observing all the public health rules- those Councillors who wish to meet via ZOOM can still do so. We want everyone to stay safe and healthy.

With respect to Tax Notices and the MD mill rates, there will be **no increase in Farmland and Residential rates**, however, the Linear and Non-Residential rates will increase by 1.1% to keep the 2020 taxes at the same level as 2019 arising from losses due to depreciation on Linear and Non-Residential. Linear and DIP (Designated Industrial Property) assessment has decreased by \$30 million for 2020. If you have any questions, please contact the MD office.

Granum residents will see a Special Tax on their notices; however, this is no different than they would have seen when they were a Town. It will raise the \$235,000 needed for infrastructure projects (i.e. repair of fire hydrants, weed & vegetation management, road repairs, etc.) within the Hamlet of Granum. This does not include the major infrastructure projects that need to be undertaken in Granum – funding for these will be covered through the Municipal Sustainability Initiative Program, the Federal Gas Tax and the Alberta Community Resiliency Program.

In addition to the Provincial School Foundation Fund requisition, everyone will see a **new** line for the **Provincial Policing Tax**. Since the Government of Alberta made the decision to begin charging all Municipalities for policing costs which will increase from 10% of the costs to 30% over the next 5 years, the costs to the MD of Willow Creek will be \$139,653 in 2020 increasing to \$419,260 in 2024. The MD is merely the fund collector for the Province – it is not our tax. Unfortunately, we do not foresee any increased service for the additional cost.

2020 Budget- Council did not take an increase in their remuneration and decreased the amount for their Discretionary Funds (from \$35,000 to \$10,500 divided equally among 7 Councillors). We know it does not seem like a lot in the big scheme, however, Council wanted to set an example & is very much aware that tough times exist and will continue to exist everywhere while trying to maintain the essential services & continue to maintain funding for Libraries, FCSS, Transportation Societies, Fire Halls, Community Halls, emergency services, recreation, cemeteries, etc.

Council spent a very productive day on Feb 24th in Council chambers and came up with a Strategic Plan that will help guide Administration and Council in the next 5 years. Guiding principles and foundations for future success are: Community, Accountability, Economic Growth & Diversity, Municipal Infrastructure and Collaboration. Under each of these, strategic priorities were then identified.

Council has completed an ICF (Intermunicipal Collaborative Framework) agreement with each of the four towns within the MD. Now the work begins with a Committee composed of elected officials from each of the partners – Nanton, Stavely, Claresholm, Fort Macleod and the MD to look at various of topics of collaboration. Initially it will be regional recreation.

We continue to strongly advocate for and defend agriculture in ongoing discussions on the IDPs (Intermunicipal Development Plans) with Claresholm and Fort Macleod. The April 1, 2020 deadline has been extended by the Government of Alberta to April 1, 2021.

On May 27th, Council passed a resolution to authorize, from their discretionary accounts, an immediate donation of \$2800 to HALO Air Ambulance and to examine creating a line item for annual contributions to HALO in future budget years. As many of you have probably seen & heard, HALO Air Ambulance in the SE part of our great Province is experiencing great financial difficulties due to the inability to fundraise during the pandemic to the point that it may cease to operate as of July 1st if adequate funding is not found. Although not often, residents of the MD of Willow Creek have used HALO when STARS was not available. The MD has budgeted \$10,000 to STARS annually for several years.

As you can see, even with COVID, your MD Council is still at work and more importantly, we are so grateful to our Administration and all the staff that keep the MD operating every day. Thank you to all of them.

Belated Happy Mother's Day to all Moms.

Happy Farmer's Day on June 12th – to many of us every day is Farmer's Day!!!

Happy Father's Day on June 21st to all the Dads.

Do not let the COVID get you down – Seeing the green grass after the good rain along with the emerging crops and then watching the calves play out with the cows, how can you not smile and then be optimistic about our rural way of life.

We live in a great part of the world- the MD of Willow Creek.

SMOKE ALARMS AT HOME

When there is a fire, smoke spreads fast. Working smoke alarms give you early warning so you can get out quickly.

SAFETY TIPS:

- They should be installed outside every sleeping area and on every level of the home.
- It is best to use interconnected smoke alarms. When one smoke alarm sounds, they all sound.
- Test all smoke alarms at least once a month.
- A smoke alarm should be on the ceiling or high on the wall. Keep alarms away from the kitchen. They should be at least 10 feet (3 meters) from the stove.
- Replace all alarms when they are about 10 years old.

It's time!

The recycling roundup is on!



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

Bring your old computers, TV's and paint to:

**The Town of Fort Macleod / MD of Willow Creek
House Hold Toxic Waste & Electronic Recycle
Round Up**

Saturday June 6/2020 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.

Preparing for the threat of wildfire is a shared responsibility. You can do your part by:

Obey fire bans!

Properly dispose of smoking material

Make sure your campfire is completely out.

Report all wildfires!

Dispose of debris & lawn clippings quickly to reduce fuel for a fire.

Clear leaves and other vegetative debris from roofs, gutters, porches and decks. This helps prevent embers from igniting your home.

Remove dead vegetation & other items from under your deck or porch, and within 10 feet of the house.

Remove flammable materials (wood piles, propane) within 30 feet of your home's foundation and outbuildings, including garages & sheds. If it can catch fire, don't let it tough your house.

Prune trees so the lowest branches are 6 to 10 feet from the ground.

If you spot a wildfire, call 310-FIRE

BE A DONOR!

There is a constant need for Blood, Plasma, Stem Cells, Organs & Tissues in Canada. Please consider donating. More information can be found at www.blood.ca or call 1-888-236-6283

SOIL CONSERVATION EQUIPMENT



Manure Spreader
\$300 / Day
\$1,000 Deposit
\$50 Delivery Fee

Broadcast Seeder
(Handheld)
No Charge
\$50 Deposit



Straw Incorporator
\$100 / Day
\$200 Deposit

LIVESTOCK EQUIPMENT



Portable Livestock Scale
\$100 / day
\$500 Deposit

Livestock Tag Reader
No Charge
\$500 Deposit
Max usage of 3 days



WEED MANAGEMENT



Assortment of Skid-Mounted
Sprayers: \$30/ Day
\$100 Deposit

*Weed Sprayers—125 and 200
gallon

Use for Herbicides

**High Pressure Sprayer—100 Gal
Use for Pesticides

Backpack Sprayer
No Charge
\$100 Deposit
2 Weeks Maximum



Skunk Trap
No Charge
\$70 Deposit

ANIMAL CONTROL

Magpie Trap
No Charge
\$70 Deposit



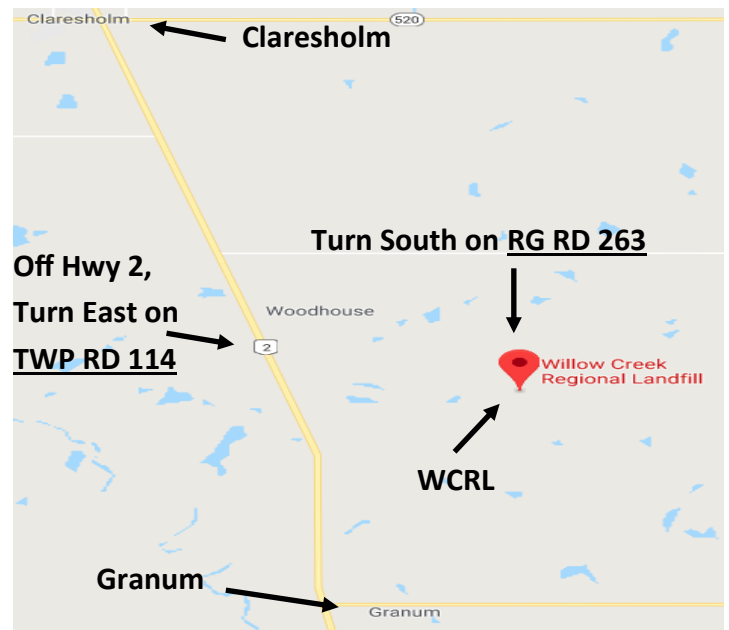
CARLA PREACHUK, AGRICULTURAL FIELDMAN
403-625-3351 EXT 229 OR 403-625-1656
CARLA@MDWILLOWCREEK.COM

GARY MURRAY, ASSIST. AGRICULTURAL FIELDMAN
403-625-6095

AGRICULTURE SERVICE BOARD SHOP:
273129 SEC. HWY. 520 (CLARESHOLM AIRPORT)

WILLOW CREEK REGIONAL LANDFILL
LOCATED AT : 113053 Rge. Rd. 263
(South of Claresholm)

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



The Willow Creek Regional Landfill is a waste management facility dedicated to responsible and environmentally sound waste management. Our goal is to lessen our footprint on the environment while providing waste management solutions to our members and their residents. We encourage everyone to recycle, re-use and re-purpose.

MATERIALS PROHIBITED ON SITE

No person shall dispose of the following material in the landfill:

- Hazardous waste, including radioactive and pathogenic, as defined by Alberta Environment
- Explosive substances
- Chemicals which may create a hazardous working condition
- Liquid waste
- Materials hot enough to cause combustion
- Waste oil or petroleum by-products, oil filters, or containers
- Contaminated soils
- Biomedical waste
- Animal carcasses, whole or in part
- Asbestos

MATERIALS ACCEPTED FOR LANDFILLING INCLUDE:

- Municipal Solid Waste (kitchen waste)
- Construction & demolition/building materials including asphalt, shingles, vinyl siding, drywall and insulation
- Agriculture plastics including silage wrap, grain bags and bale wrap/twine
- Basic household items including furniture, couches, mattresses etc.

MATERIAL ACCEPTED FOR DIVERSION

- Lead acid batteries
- Barbed wire, page wire, chain link fencing etc.
- Propane tanks and cylinders
- Agriculture chemical containers—must be triple rinsed with booklets removed
- Electronics which include televisions, computers, monitors, printers, copiers, fax machines
- Tires which include car, light truck, highway tractor, farm implement. Foam filled tires, tire tubes and rubber tracks are not recyclable.
- Paint and stain products up to 20 liters in size
- Metal including appliances, DVD players, VCR's, satellite and cable receivers and microwaves. Refrigerators, air conditioners, water coolers, ice makers and freezers require the recovery of the refrigerant which is done on site for a fee. **NO EXCEPTIONS**
- Wood including OSB sheathing and plywood, treated lumber. Painted or stained wood and tree branches that is free of other debris.

Don't Rush, Think Before You Flush

Help protect the environment and your regional wastewater collection and treatment systems by reducing the amount of contaminants discharged into the sewer systems.



What you put down the drain matters!

Most people think that wastewater treatment will deal with anything we put down the drain. The reality is they cannot remove all contaminants. Whether you are connected to sewer or on septic, what you put down the drain makes a difference.

What's the problem?

Disposable wipes, dental floss, hygienic products and anything that will not disintegrate should be disposed into the garbage and not flushed down the toilet. These items entangle with other waste and create problems in the collection system and at the treatment plant.

Non-Flushable Products

THE PROBLEM: Items like wipes (baby wipes, personal hygiene wipes, cleaning wipes), paper towels, tampons + applicators, condoms, floss and even hair cause problems. These products don't break down quickly enough in the wastewater system (or at all) and can end up clogging our sewers and your pipes.

THE SOLUTION: Put wipes, rags, paper towels, diapers, feminine hygiene products in the garbage.

Fats, Oils & Greases

THE PROBLEM: Cooking oil and grease poured down drains is the number one cause of sewer blockages and overflows in the wastewater collection system.

THE SOLUTION: Pour cooled oil into a large can with a lid. Wipe excess oil with a paper towel. Full cans of grease or jugs of old cooking oil can possibly be recycled at the Willow Creek Landfill, please call them ahead of time.

Medications

THE PROBLEM: Not all pharmaceuticals are removed in the wastewater treatment process and as a result, some chemicals may end up in the environment.

THE SOLUTION: Return all unused and expired prescription drugs, over the counter medication, vitamins and natural health products to your local pharmacy.

Cleaning Products, Motor Oil, Old Paint

THE PROBLEM: Many household products are hazardous and should never be poured down the drain including motor oil, paint, solvents or other chemicals. Some household cleaning products can also harmful.

THE SOLUTION: Return household hazardous wastes and unused cleaning products to a hazardous waste collector. Fortunately, there are environmentally safe and affordable alternatives to most household cleaners. A quick search of the internet will provide you will many options.



Difference between a Development Permit and a Building Permit

DEVELOPMENT PERMIT

- Deals with an impact on surrounding properties & 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.

BUILDING PERMIT

- Deals with the structural stability of buildings & the health and safety of the 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 the Planning and Development Dept. at **(403) 625-3351 ext. 230 or 235** to arrange an appointment or if you have questions.

Contact Superior Safety Codes at **1 (877) 320-0734** to arrange an appointment or if you have questions.



MD CAMPGROUNDS



Willow Creek, Pine Coulee & Clear Lake Campgrounds are now open for the season!

To see the list of restrictions due to COVID-19 & social distancing check our website.

CAMPFIRES:

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

FIRE PERMITS

The Municipality authorizes burning through the use of a municipal fire permit system.

***NO BURNING** shall take place without the benefit of a fire permit*

If a landowner responsible for burning is doing so without a permit and the fire department is dispatched, the landowner (ratepayer) shall be billed the cost of the fire response. If a fire permit is issued and the fire gets out of control and the fire department is dispatched, the landowner shall be billed the cost of the fire response.

Passing Emergency Vehicles

- Emergency vehicles include fire, police, ambulance, tow trucks, and a vehicle being used by a gas disconnection unit of a public utility or designated emergency response unit.
- Motorists must slow to 60 km/hr, unless otherwise posted when passing emergency vehicles or tow trucks stopped with their lights flashing. Fines for speeding in these areas will be double the regular amount.
- If there are two or more traffic lanes in the same direction as the emergency vehicle, passing vehicles need only slowdown in the lane immediately beside the stopped emergency vehicle. Vehicles traveling in the other lanes, including oncoming lanes, may maintain their speed but should proceed with caution.



WEED CONTROL

NO SPRAY AGREEMENTS— If you don't want the MD to spray herbicides for the purpose of vegetation control on a road allowance adjacent to your property you will need to complete a "No Spray" Agreement. If you signed an agreement last year it is still on file. If you did not, or if there has been a change then phone the office at (403) 625-3351 and have one completed.

ATTENTION LANDOWNERS:

Landowners & occupiers are responsible for controlling noxious weeds and destroying prohibited noxious weeds under the **Alberta Weed Control Act**. Listed plants in the Act cause problems for the environment, health or economy. Know your responsibilities under the Act. Regardless of where plants are located, prevention is always the most effective approach in dealing with invasive plants.

- Learn to identify invasive plants.
- Be alert for invasive plants and respond early when they are found.
- Reduce the introduction of invasive plants as well as the reproduction and movement of their seeds and plant parts.
- Reduce soil disturbance, which makes openings where invasive plants can establish.
- Use effective, appropriate methods to control the plants.
- Contact the Agricultural Fieldman at (403) 625-3351 X 229 or 249, if you have questions.

For more information on Aquatic Invasive Species and Terrestrial Invasive Species go to: <https://abinvasives.ca/>



A REMINDER TO DRIVER'S:

The **MAXIMUM SPEED LIMIT ON A ROADWAY THAT IS LOCATED OUTSIDE AN URBAN AREA (i.e. MD GRAVEL ROAD'S) IS 80 km/hr** UNLESS A LOWER OR HIGHER SPEED IS POSTED.

Speed limits do not indicate the maximum speed drivers should travel. They are the maximum speed permitted when conditions are ideal. Any speed that is unsafe for the current condition is illegal. Visit www.transportation.alberta.ca for further detailed information.

Keeping Cattle Comfortable this Summer

For those animals in the hot, dry parts of the province, adequate cool, good quality and readily available water is key to coping with heat stress.

While sweating does help some with temperature regulation, consumption of water is one of the quickest ways for cattle to reduce their body core temperature. With the rise in temperature, the amount of water that the animals drink will also increase.

Fatter cattle are more at risk. As well, darker hided animals will typically suffer heat stress sooner than animals with lighter colour hides. When cattle are panting or possibly slobbering, they are experiencing heat stress. Just like humans, the very young and old cattle are more prone to experience heat stress.

Creating an action plan to reduce heat stress is important. Planning preventative measures before temperatures reach critical levels will reduce the impact on cattle.

Although calves get some of their water requirements from milk, calves also need access to clean drinking water. If possible, set out water troughs for the calves in areas where the cows cannot enter, similar to having creep feeder areas.

Providing shade allows the animals to better regulate their body temperatures. If there is a field with trees available, let the animals access that area. If trees are not an option, move the portable windbreaks used in the winter as a source of shade.

If the animals are in an area where a sprinkler can be set up, soaking the animals with large water drops provides a way for them to cool their body temperature. Hanson says not to mist the cattle as that just increases the relative humidity around the animals and may compound the problem.

If at all possible, avoid handling or moving cattle during the hot periods of the day or during heat waves. If this must be done, do it in the early morning when temperatures are lower and the cattle have had at least six hours of night cooling.

Managing exposure to pests is also important. When animals are pestered by flies and mosquitos, they spend more time moving around trying to get away from the pestilence. As a result, livestock are constantly moving, not eating and are not gaining weight.

Connect with the Alberta Ag Centre for more information:

Hours: 8—5 (Monday to Friday) — Toll free: 310-FARM

