



## Village of Spring Lake

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### Office Hours:

Monday - Friday

8:30 am to 4:30 pm

After-hour appointments can be arranged.

**Mayor** Rainbow Williams

**Deputy Mayor** John Roznicki

**Councillors** Bonnie Flesher  
Bonnie Hall  
Jason Shewchuk

**Administrator** Emily House

**Administrative Assistant** Janet Zaplotinsky

**Public Works** Randy Denby  
Ken Megill

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## Contributions

Environmental Advisory  
Committee Newsletter



# Winter Newsletter



## Village of Spring Lake

Winter 2016 – Issue 17

[www.springlakealberta.com](http://www.springlakealberta.com)

Spring Lake now on Facebook

## Season's Greetings to all the Residents and Visitors of the Village of Spring Lake

As we have just entered December its now time for all of us to reflect the year that's past and the year that's ahead. This has been a year that has brought us continued economic challenges as well as testing our fortitude as a province.

During the past year, I've had the pleasure of meeting with many residents of The Village on trails, roads, and especially on the lake. Public Works has continued to make great progress with providing access to our bountiful trails, parks and playgrounds. Though cold outside now is a great time to explore and enjoy the skating rink, walk the trails, and embrace the peace and serenity that winter brings.

This summer residents opened their homes and properties to the many Albertans made homeless during the Fort MacMurray fires. This community spirit was commendable and should make us all proud. As we look towards 2017, the growth of this Community Spirit is a paramount goal of the staff and Council of Spring Lake. Our Community Sustainability Plan has been finalized and we look forward to

implementing the many recommendations brought forth during our community meetings and surveys. Please ask one of the members of council for more information or come by the office to discuss with the administration.

2017 will be very exciting for Spring Lake as we're going to be seeing some new infrastructure development as the re-alignment of the intersection in front of the office breaks ground. The old Public Works Building will be demolished and our new grant funded mixed use arena and playground will be constructed. Our administration has worked diligently with Public Works to bring this scope of work to fruition. We're all very excited for the progress!

On behalf of Council and staff I would like to extend our sincere wish to all residents for a Safe and Joyful Holiday Season and All the Best in 2017.

Warm regards,

Rainbow Williams, Mayor

## Santa Clause is Coming to Town ...

*along with Mrs. Claus and all their elves.*

Santa and Mrs. Claus have let the Village Office know that they have time to stop by again this year. They will be touring the Village, starting at 4:00 p.m. in Beachview Crescent on Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>. Watch for the elves to come by your house to announce their arrival so you can gather the family to come out, meet Santa and get a Christmas treat. We will also update our Facebook page with where Santa is in the Village.

They will also be accepting donations for the food bank. If you will not be home, please leave your donation on your doorstep or at the bottom of your driveway.

### *Christmas Office Hours*

The Village Office will be closed on December 23<sup>rd</sup> and will reopen on January 3<sup>rd</sup>. We will be checking phone messages and emails during this time.



### *Garbage & Recycling Winter Schedule*

Monday's garbage and recycling pick-up has now gone to a bi-weekly schedule. Garbage and recycling will be picked up the same day with December pick up dates being the following:

- Monday, December 12<sup>th</sup>
- Monday, December 26<sup>th</sup>
- Monday, January 9<sup>th</sup>

#### **PLEASE NOTE:**

All residents must make sure that their **GARBAGE TOTES ARE REMOVED FROM THE ROADWAY MONDAY EVENINGS** to ensure proper snow clearing can be achieved. If your tote should be damaged due to non-removal of the tote, you will be responsible for the repair or replacement cost of the tote.

### *Christmas Light Decorating Contest*

The 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Christmas Decorating Contest will be judged between December 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. Please make sure that you have your Christmas display lit up between these dates from 6pm to 8pm.

1<sup>st</sup> Prize - \$100.00

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize - \$50.00

3<sup>rd</sup> Prize - \$25.00

Please watch the bulletin boards for the notice announcing the winners.

### *2017 Dog Tags*

We would like to remind all residents that currently own dogs, to please purchase your 2017 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.

The largest enforcement cost to Spring Lake are issues related to dogs. We realize that pets are an important part of everyone's family and we thank those pet owners who respect their neighbors and community, clean up after their pets, purchase annual dog tags and abide by the Village's Dog 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 Animal Control Centre. 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.

### *2017 Property Assessments*

Property Assessment Notices will be mailed out separately from Property Tax Notices for 2016. Assessment Notices will be mailed out in March of 2017 with Property Tax Notices being mailed out in May 2017.

Please note that once you have received your Property Tax Notice it is too late to have your property assessment changed as assessments cannot be adjusted after the appeal deadline which is 60 days after the Assessment Notices are mailed. We highly recommend each resident to closely examine their Property Assessment Notice and speak with the assessor regarding it.

If you should have any questions regarding this, please feel free to contact the Village Office.

### *Community Sustainability Plan*

After consultation with residents at the Community Meeting in 2014 and follow-up Survey in 2015, the Village is in the final stages of approving the updated Community Sustainability Plan.

Our intention was to engage residents in providing suggestions and projects that they would like to see in Spring Lake. We have used this information to renew our Sustainability Plan. Please watch the Village bulletin boards and website for the release date of this plan.

### *Skating Rink*

The Village Skating Rink will re-open this winter season. As we do not have enough volunteers for the rink it will be unsupervised "use at your own risk" skating.

Fortis has donated and installed lights so that night skating will be provided. Please watch for notices on our website and bulletin boards announcing when the rink will be ready for skating and the hours in which it will be open.



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## Art Advisory Committee

As is often the case with the October Organizational Meeting on Village Council, I have been assigned to a fantastic new portfolio on the Art Advisory Committee. It is an exciting time for this newer initiative. Council and myself are eager to give whatever support we can. Enthusiasm and commitment are a couple of words I could use to describe the committee and we appreciate their dedication. In the coming months keep an eye out for programs that we hope will be the start of a long term relationship with our residents. Initiatives like these help to contribute and enrich the way of life we, as residents, enjoy. As with all committees, we are always on the lookout for participation from the community. If you have time and or talents, and want to give back in some small way, consider the Art Advisory Committee. Merry Christmas!

## Village Snow Removal

We want to thank all of those residents that have expressed appreciation and have been respectful towards staff during the winter season when clearing snow from our roads. We take pride in being able to provide prompt and thorough snow clearing within our Village and would like to remind residents of a few things that they can do to help further enhance this service. The snow removal priorities continues to be the same and are as follows:

- (1) All major thoroughfares, with special consideration given to steep hills and important intersections
- (2) Side streets
- (3) Alleys
- (4) Canada Post Mailbox Sites

### *How can you help?*

To eliminate delays and damage to equipment, we are requesting all residents to help the Village by:

- **Not plowing snow from your property or driveway onto or across the road.**
- **Place snow from approaches as a result from private driveway clearing on the the right hand side of the driveway as they are exiting their property.**
- **Removing vehicles, equipment and other objects from the road allowance**
- **Remove garbage totes from the road allowance by 6am Tuesday mornings.**

The municipality reserves the right to tow or remove these items so that snow plowing operations can continue without delay. Recovery, repair or replacement costs to these items will be the responsibility of the property owner. In addition, removal of snow from your property onto or across the road can result in a fine under Traffic ByLaw #328. We thank everyone for their patience during snow and ice control operations.

## Black Knot Management

***The ideal time to manage black knot is between Halloween and the end of March, when the tree is dormant and the lack of leaves make for easy navigation.***

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.

## Fire Fighting Services & Permits

Firefighting services are provided by the County of Parkland and the Town of Stony Plain. Both Fire Departments list the Village as being **6 miles (9.65 KM) 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. Please refer to the Open Burning ByLaw for specifications regarding fire pits and types of material that are permitted to be burned.

**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.

## 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.

## Parking

The Village Land Use Bylaw states that each property must have an area within the property boundaries to park two vehicles. Roadside parking is not permitted from 8am to 4:30pm, Monday - Friday or during heavy snowfall events. Outside of those times, if roadside parking is needed, please 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.

## Traffic Speed Limits

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!

## 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. All residents are encouraged to attend.

## 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 Constable Barb Roy at 780-968-7210.

## Developing and Building

A **Development Permit** must be applied for before obtaining any Safety Code Permits necessary for new construction, additions, decks, demolition, and excavation (HOLDING TANKS & CISTERNS). This permit is to ensure that your project or home occupation conforms to the Village's Land Use ByLaw, including proper setbacks from property lines, etc.

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** including electrical, plumbing, building, etc. must be obtained from **Superior Safety Codes** before beginning your project. You must apply for these permits to ensure that your project is safe and conforms to safety code regulations and must be obtained before commencing work. Permit forms and information can be found on [www.superiorsafetycode.com](http://www.superiorsafetycode.com) or they are available at the Village Office.

## Alberta First 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.

## Art Club

The Art Club meets Monday evenings at 7:00pm in the Council Chambers. Visitors and new members are welcome. For more information, please contact Lorne Pendleton at (780) 968-2173.