

SUMMER VILLAGE OF SILVER SANDS

Winter Newsletter

December 2020

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HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

The administration office will be **CLOSED** December 23, 2020-January 3, 2021. The office will re-open on January 4, 2021.

REMINDER TO RESIDENTS

Do not push snow from a residential property onto roadways or ditches in the Summer Village.

SILVER SANDS CONNECT

Earlier this year, the Summer Village launched a new communication system designed to keep the residents informed about the latest news, events and information from the community. Residents are encouraged to sign up through the link on the Summer Village's website at www.summervillageofsilversands.com/silver-sands-connect.html

TAX PAYMENT PLAN

The Tax Payment Plan begins in January. If you would like to join, please contact the Summer Village Office for details.

Mayor's Message

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to All Our Residents!

"Covid" has certainly changed our world. We need to respect everyone's right to a safe environment. We strongly advise our residents to wear masks when entering public buildings. We also encourage sanitizing and frequently washing your hands. We are very fortunate to live in a Summer Village where we can socially distance and enjoy the outdoors.

Water levels of the lake finally receded this fall. The fluctuation of lake levels is a common occurrence. If you are protecting your lake front properties, be reminded that you must contact Alberta Environment & Parks to receive approval prior to commencing any lakeshore work.

"Covid" has significantly improved the real estate market in our area. Cottages listed are being sold quickly. We welcome all newcomers!

Please see very important information on page 2 regarding a change in the waste services provider. Resident action is required.

Bernie Poulin, Mayor



Waste Provider – Change in Service Contractor

Waste Carts must be left out for GFL to retrieve on Tuesday, December 22, 2020

The Summer Village of Silver Sands along with the Town of Onoway, Sunrise Beach, West Cove and Yellowstone, were all receiving their household waste (along with organics and/or recycling where applicable) from GFL Environmental Services. The waste contracts were set to expire on December 31st, 2020, so the common administration services for these 5 municipalities prepared a request for proposals for same or similar services starting in January 2021 and continuing for a five-year term. The proposals were received and we were pleased to see a significant reduction in the monthly fees on the go forward. After consideration of various factors within the proposals and service requirements, all 5 municipalities have decided to change service provider and will all be going to Standstone Vacuum Services Ltd. operating as Standstone Waste & Water. With this new contract, the Summer Village of Silver Sands is estimated to save \$9,000.00 annually and all properties currently serviced will receive brand new carts. Silver Sands' day of waste pickup will remain unchanged and all concerns and/or inquiries moving forward regarding missed pickup or cart damage will be made directly with the service provider whose contact information will be labelled on your new cart.

While this change in service will see cost savings, it will come with a bit of work on the part of our community. **GFL will be completing their last pickup on December 22nd, and your cart, whether full or empty, must be left out on this day so these carts can be retrieved by GFL as they are the property of GFL.** Property owners who do not put their carts out will be charged a fee of between \$70.00 and \$100.00 for their unreturned cart. If a property owner is unable to physically set your cart out on this day, please arrange with your neighbour to do so on your behalf.

New carts will be dropped off by Standstone after GFL has been through and picked up their carts. Standstone will commence service starting January with the first pickup date being Tuesday, January 5th, 2021 for Silver Sands.

We thank GFL for their past years of service and welcome Standstone into our community.

A Message from the New Waste Services Provider

Dear friends, neighbours and valued customers:

The Standstone team is excited to be back in the waste hauling business! We are so proud to have the opportunity to serve your communities more completely, with new residential waste collection contracts in your area. We will be in your area at the start of 2021, rolling out new carts for each home. Collection will follow promptly after the roll-out. We want to ensure that all our customers receive exemplary service in water delivery, septic service and waste collection and will be happy to answer your questions and concerns once waste collection has commenced. As always, our friendly admin staff are ready to discuss your service needs by calling our office at 780-967-2118 or toll free at 1-877-226-5008.

Wishing you all a Safe and Happy Holiday Season.

Best Regards,

Ken & Lisa Standeven



New! Bylaw 309-2020 in place for Snow Clearing, Removal and Storage

This year, the Summer Village's public works department along with several contractors completed an extensive drainage upgrade project in several areas. One issue affecting the drainage in the Summer Village is the continued and deliberate placement of snow into the ditches during the winter months which eventually freezes into ice and affects the flow of water through the culvert system during the spring thaw. Under the newly passed Bylaw 309-2020 which is now in effect, and in order to protect the Summer Village's infrastructure and drainage system, the bylaw clearly outlines unauthorized clearing, removal or storage of snow debris as follows:

- 3.1 *All Snow Debris cleared on a residential lot shall remain on the subject parcel, unless being hauled outside of municipal boundaries or to designated snow storage facilities within the community as may be designated by Council from time to time.*
- 3.2 *No Owner or Occupant of any private property within the Summer Village of Silver Sands shall remove Snow Debris from a private property and allow it to be stored or transferred:*
- (a) *On to or push across any Highway, Roadway, Laneway or other municipal or provincial vehicular or pedestrian traffic route;*
 - (b) *On to any Public Lands, and particularly any road right-of-way, ditch, drainage swale, culvert channel, sidewalk or drainage egress within the municipality;*
 - (c) *On to any other private property within the municipality, whether owned by the same property owner as the originating lot or otherwise, without the expressed approval of Council and whereby such approval may be conditional on any protections or provisions deemed reasonable by the Chief Administrative Officer.*

For the purposes of this section, where it is apparent the material originated from the land, the person owning or occupying the land shall be responsible.

Non-compliance under this bylaw can result in enforcement measures including a minimum and specified penalty for a violation of any provision being a fine in the amount of \$500.00, and, if a person violates the same provision of this bylaw twice, the minimum and specified penalty for the second and subsequent violation shall be a fine in the amount of \$1,000.00.

Please do your part to help protect and promote the general good operation of the core infrastructure and planning improvements throughout the Summer Village. You can read the full bylaw on the Summer Village's website at www.summervillageofsilversands.com/bylaws.html or contact the office for a copy.

Outstanding Taxes Due December 31st

A reminder that any outstanding taxes are due on December 31st, 2020 otherwise are subject to an 18% penalty on January 1st, 2021.



Public Works Supervisor Position

Dan Golka, our Public Works Manager for the past 5 ½ years, has given notice to the Summer Village as he will be pursuing other adventures. We thank Dan for his dedicated service to the Summer Village and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

The Summer Village is now seeking applications/proposals from individuals or companies interested in overseeing the operation of the Public Works Department. The Public Works Supervisor will report to the Chief Administrative Officer and will be responsible for planning and organization, for supervision of two additional summer employees (one part-time from July to August and one full-time from May through September) and for directing all functions of the department.

Summer work will consist of a 40-hour work week and include but not be limited to grounds maintenance such as grass cutting, trimming, signage, drainage, tree trimming/removal and weekly blue-bag recycle pick up. Winter hours will be staggered and may be reduced depending on weather conditions. Winter work will consist of snow removal and sanding as required, bi-weekly blue-bag recycle pick up and culvert maintenance in preparation for the spring thaw.

The Summer Village welcomes resumes for a salary position, or proposals on a contract basis for all or part of the required work and/or the Supervisor position. This position can be compensated on a salary or contract basis.

For more details and position requirements, please visit the Summer Village's website.

Emergency Management

The Summer Village would like to extend a big thank you to our very dedicated residents Dennis Woolsey and Rick Wagner. Dennis has taken on the role of Director of Emergency Management for the Summer Village and Rick has taken on the role of Deputy Director of Emergency Management. Both have been working hard alongside Council, Administration and many other surrounding communities to ensure the Summer Village of Silver Sands bylaws, policies and procedures are in line with the requirements of the Alberta Emergency Management Agency in the event of an emergency. The Summer Village, including Dennis and Rick have also been involved in countless virtual meetings with Alberta Health Services with respect to current pandemic matters. See the Summer Village's website for more information.

Fire Suppression

Fires can happen! ARE YOU COVERED?

Did you know that the cost of fire suppression by the fire department is payable by the **property owner**? In our area we have seen the cost of fire suppression for a structure fire as high as \$28,000 and for a wildland (grass fire) as high as \$12,000.

Be sure to check your home insurance policy or talk to your insurance agent about what exactly your policy covers and how much it covers. Besides inquiring about your home structure fire insurance, we encourage you to inquire about wildland insurance (for a grass fire that happens but never reaches a structure).

ALSO, please be advised that should the fire department be dispatched by 9-1-1 to your residence for any reason (house alarms including false alarms, campfire, downed utility line, etc.) you, as the property owner, will receive an invoice. The only exception is for medical response calls (assisting Alberta Health Services) – there is no charge for these calls.

