

SUMMER VILLAGE OF SILVER SANDS

Winter Newsletter

December 2021

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HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

The administration office will be **CLOSED** December 24, 2021-January 2, 2022. The office will re-open on January 3, 2022.

REMINDER TO RESIDENTS

Do not push snow from a residential property onto roadways or ditches in the Summer Village. (see page 2 for more information)

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: 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. The plan allows you to make monthly payments towards your taxes and avoid penalties.

Mayor's Message

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to All Silver Sands Residents.

The lake is now frozen and I have noticed the ice fishermen already setting out their tents. It appears we are going to have fluctuations in winter temperatures with rain and snow events. Please be careful when driving or walking as icy conditions appear to be becoming more of the norm.

Council has started the process of reviewing and updating our land-use bylaw, please ensure you help us develop our bylaw in a clear and concise language. You will be able to access information on our Land Use Bylaw (LUB) on our website starting in December. Also, take the time to complete a soon-to-be-released survey to help Council with their bylaw revisions. We value your input! (see page 2 for more information)

Our Emergency Management team, consisting of Dennis Woolsey and Rick Wagner, are preparing an excellent emergency management plan for our Summer Village. Join me in thanking them for their excellent leadership on this project.

Bernie Poulin, Mayor

Outstanding Taxes Due December 31st

A reminder that any outstanding taxes are due on December 31st, 2021 otherwise are subject to an 18% penalty on January 1st, 2022.

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

In 2020, 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.

If residents are seeking a location to move their snow to, please let the Administration office know and at that time we will endeavor to find a location.

Land Use Bylaw (LUB) Project Update

Municipal Planning Services (MPS) has been contracted by the Summer Village to oversee the Summer Village Land Use Bylaw review. Enclosed you will find a newsletter and survey link for this upcoming project. The online survey is designed to provide MPS with background information about the Summer Village and residents – survey completion deadline is **December 20, 2021** and can be accessed at: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SilverSandsLUB>. A dedicated website for the LUB Project has been created to provide Summer Village community members with a dedicated place for information about the LUB project. The website can be view at the following address: <https://www.silversandslub.ca/>. Follow this website to keep up to date with project news and community engagement opportunities.



A Reminder to Build Yourself a 72-Hour Emergency Kit!

Information below is from Alberta Emergency Management Agency Website – <https://www.alberta.ca/build-an-emergency-kit.aspx>

In an emergency, you will need some basic supplies. By taking a few simple steps today, you can become better prepared to face a range of emergencies. Individuals and families should be prepared to be self-sufficient for a minimum of 72 hours. On this page you will find emergency kit lists to help you and your family become more prepared. The items below will not apply to every situation or every person. Personalize your kit to suit your particular situation. Here are some basic items to consider for your emergency kit:

- ✓ Three-day supply of water (4 L per person per day)
- ✓ Non-perishable food for all family members and pets (three-day supply)
- ✓ First-aid kit
- ✓ Flashlight, battery-powered radio and extra batteries
- ✓ An extra set of car keys, credit cards, and cash
- ✓ Sanitation supplies
- ✓ Extra eyeglasses or contact lenses
- ✓ Important family documents and contact numbers
- ✓ Prescriptions or special medications
- ✓ Chargers for electronic communication devices
- ✓ Insurance documents
- ✓ Emergency phone numbers list
- ✓ A change of clothes for each family member

Fire Services/Insurance

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, be aware 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.



Fire Department News:



Did You Know:

If 6 People from Silver Sands Volunteer to be Firefighters our Community will Get:

- Free Training as long as you Volunteer your Time
 - Firefighters get tax breaks as well as life insurance
 - A Fire Truck Stationed out of Silver Sands
 - Residents get an insurance break due to having a satellite fire station
 - Better/faster coverage in the Village
- For more info contact: 1-855-710-3473



SAFE & HAPPY HOLIDAYS - FIRE SAFETY TIPS

INFORMATION BELOW IS FROM: [HTTPS://WWW.CANADA.CA/EN/DEPARTMENT-NATIONAL-DEFENCE/MAPLE-LEAF/DEFENCE/2021/12/HOLIDAY-FIRE-SAFETY-TIPS.HTML](https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/maple-leaf/defence/2021/12/holiday-fire-safety-tips.html)

As we approach the holiday season, let's keep it safe by following a few fire safety tips.

Home Fire Escape Plan – Take the time to make a home fire escape plan, and practice it; you never know when you and your family might need it.

Fireplace – Have your chimney inspected and cleaned by a professional. Ensure the flue is open before lighting up. Avoid burning wrapping paper, which may create a dangerous flash fire.

Indoor/Outdoor Decorative Lighting – Using decorative lighting correctly can be the difference between happy holidays and having more than just chestnuts roasting on an open fire. Follow these Do's and Don'ts on decorative lighting to prevent injuries and fires.

Do's

- Use lights with a safety certification (CSA, ULC, etc.).
- Replace old or damaged lights.
- Plug outdoor lights into a GFCI outlet.
- Turn off the lights when going to bed or leaving the house.

Don'ts

- Use inside-only decorative lights outside.
- Use electric lights on a metallic tree.
- Run electrical cords through or across doorways or under carpets.
- Overload the circuit by plugging too many lights

Holiday Tree – Always place the tree out of the way of foot traffic and do not block doorways or exits to the outside. Make sure the tree is well-secured in a sturdy stand, and place it away from any heat sources, including fireplaces and burning candles.

- **Artificial Tree** - Look for the "fire resistant" label, which indicates that the tree will resist burning and should extinguish quickly.
- **Real Tree** – Make sure it's green, the needles are difficult to pull from branches, and don't break easily when bent. Cut a few inches off the trunk to expose fresh wood, allowing better water absorption, and preventing the tree from drying out prematurely. Immediately dispose of the tree as soon as the holidays are over, or when the tree is dried out.