



# County of VERMILION River

## Summer Newsletter

Planning & Development	2-3
Parks and Recreation	3
Agriculture Service Board	4
Community Water Wells	4
Gas Utility	5
Protective Services	6
Public Works	6
V.R.R.H.C.C	7
Northern Lights Libraries	8
Transfer Station Hours	8
County Contacts	8

### LIQUID STRYCHNINE UPDATE

Farmers who purchased strychnine from the County are reminded that all unused product must be returned to the County Agriculture Shop no later than July 31, 2008 in accordance with the signed agreement

If you still require strychnine, pick-ups will be available Monday and Friday mornings only from 8:30am–12:00pm

### ADMINISTRATION / TAXES

#### DUE DATE FOR PAYMENT OF TAXES IS SEPTEMBER 30, 2008

Please ensure mail is post marked by the post office and online payments are processed by September 30.

The deadline and the Penalty of 12% are FIRM

#### **2008 TAX INFO – MILLRATES**

	<b>MUNICIPAL</b>		<b>SCHOOL-PUBLIC/SEPARATE</b>	
	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
Residential-General	2.9737	2.3000	3.5087	2.8285
Residential-Hamlet (Blackfoot)	2.9737	2.9737	3.5087	2.8285
Residential-Hamlets (Clandonald)	5.3116	5.8116	3.5087	2.8285
Residential-Hamlets (Islay)	4.8116	5.3116	3.5087	2.8285
Residential-Hamlets (McL,Rvrc)	4.3116	4.8116	3.5087	2.8285
Residential-Hamlets (Streamstown)	4.8116	5.3116	3.5087	2.8285
Farmland	8.0800	8.4000	3.5087	2.8285
Non Res.	10.8831	10.500	4.4373	4.0174
General Rec.	0.1172	0.0957		
Vermilion Rec. Area	0.4809	0.4814		
Other (Average)	0.1247	0.1125		

#### PAYMENTS

————> Can be made by Cash, Cheque, Debit Card, Telephone Banking or Internet Banking  
For after hours, please use our payment drop off box

#### MONTHLY BUDGET PLAN

————> All Current Tax and Water Utility Accounts can be set up to have payments automatically withdrawn from your bank account on a monthly basis  
 ———> Taxes monthly payments are based on previous levy and would be one twelfth of the levy.  
 ———> July, August & September would be adjusted to reflect the current levy  
 Forms are available at the County office

#### **TAX ASSESSMENT-PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE JULY 15<sup>TH</sup> TO JULY 16<sup>TH</sup> 2008 AT THE COUNTY OFFICE**

The Assessor will be available to discuss your concerns with Market Value Assessment or to review how your assessment was determined for tax purposes.

#### **GOOD NEWS FOR SENIORS FROM THE PROVINCE:** 😊

One education property tax rebate per household will be issued based on a senior's principal residence.  
 For more information—please call Alberta Seniors and Community Supports (Toll Free) 1-800-642-3853

#### **Questions regarding school support can be directed to the representatives listed below:**

Public & Undeclared Education Supporters: Education Property Tax Line [Toll free dial 310-0000](tel:310-0000) and [Dial 780-422-7125](tel:780-422-7125).  
 Separate School Education Supporters: East Central Alberta Catholic Separate School Division No. 16 [780-842-3992](tel:780-842-3992).

## PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

### SPRING IS CONSTRUCTION SEASON!! REMEMBER YOUR PERMITS!!

Avoid delays—Get your permits in advance!!

#### COMING SOON...

Lots in phase 2 of Blackfoot will be coming available soon. For more information and the design layout, please contact Erin James or Susan Gingell at the County office at 846-2244.

#### COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS??

##### *Where can I obtain a Building, Gas, Plumbing, Sewer or Electrical Permit?*

You can get all the above mentioned permits through:

##### Superior Safety Codes in the County

780-808-9020

#5—Reinhart Industrial Park



##### *What is a Development Permit?*

A Development Permit authorizes you to make changes, when you are planning to construct a new building, renovate an existing building, or change the use (or intensity of use) of your property.

##### *When do I need a Permit?*

- a. Constructing, substantially altering, or renovating any building, garage or other accessory building
- b. Expanding or substantially renovating your office or commercial enterprise
- c. Opening or expanding a home occupation
- d. Demolishing or moving a building
- e. Changing or intensifying the use of the lot
- f. Making changes to intensive livestock operations
- g. Doing substantial ground work that may alter drainage corridors

##### *When don't I need a Permit?*

- a. Accessory farm buildings (barns, machine shops, granaries, that are essential to the agricultural use of the land) on land that is in excess of 32 hectares (80 acres), does not require a permit. This provision does not apply to any development within 40m (131 ft.) of the centerline of a County road.
- b. A building or structure with a gross floor area of under 13.5m<sup>2</sup> (145 sq. ft.) which is not on a permanent foundation.
- c. Construction with a total value of under \$3,500.00 including the nominal value of labor.
- d. A deck or patio provided that no construction occurs above 1.0m (3.3 ft.) in height, above grade.

##### *How do I get a Development Permit?*

Development Permit Applications are available at the County of Vermilion River office, located at 4912 - 50<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Kitscoty, Alberta.

##### *Who and where do I send my Subdivision Application too?*

Municipal Planning Services (Alberta) Ltd. is a privately-owned community planning (land use and land development) service provider

#208, 17511 - 107 Avenue NW

Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

1-780-486-1991



## PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

### COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS.....CONTINUED

#### *What is a subdivision?*

Generally, a subdivision creates more than one title from a one-titled area. For instance:

- a. If a person owns a quarter section and wants to sell a portion of that quarter section to another person, or if he wants to sell off most of the quarter section and keep a small portion for himself, he needs a subdivision.
- b. If a person owns a part of a quarter section and wants to do the same, he needs a subdivision.
- c. If a person owns a Lot or a Block on a Plan and wants to do the same, he needs a subdivision.
- d. If a person owns a quarter section, a part of a quarter section, a Lot, or a Block and he wants to sell several portions of that area to several persons, he needs a subdivision.
- e. If a person owns several Lots or Blocks on a Plan and wants to create more Lots or Blocks, he needs a subdivision.
- f. If a person owns a titled area which is split by a road, a railroad, a river, or a lake, and he wants to divide the titled area using the road, railroad, river or lake as a boundary, he needs a subdivision.
- g. If a person or two people own two titled areas (parts of quarter sections, Lots, or Blocks) and they want to change the boundaries of the titled areas (do a boundary adjustment), they need a subdivision.



## PARKS AND RECREATION

### **LINDSAY A. EVANS PARK & CAMPGROUND—PT N 32-48-3 W4**

Operated in cooperation with the Kitscoty Scouts, the park and campground will be open full time from July 1 to September 1, 2008 and by appointment for the remainder of the year.

Due to recent vandalism at the Lindsay Evans Park, the County would like to remind everyone of the following rules when using this site:

1. Use with respect—misuse of this site has required closure in the past
2. Respect enjoyment of this facility for all—quiet time between 11:00pm and 7:00am
3. This is meant to be a family facility—alcohol is restricted to personal camping sites only
4. Parents must supervise their children at all times—no lifeguard is available
5. Dogs must be leashed and picked up after
6. Dispose of litter in the containers provided
7. Wood provided for use at this site only
8. Please report any vandalism to the County Office @ 846-2244



QUADS and BIKES are out and about.....

Enjoy your recreational vehicle, but please remember to respect private property.

Your local RCMP will be enforcing fines for trespassing

## A.S.B

### GUIDELINES FOR NO SPRAY ZONES

The County of Vermilion River recognizes that some landowners are not in favour of herbicide application on county-owned land adjacent to their property.

The county continues to allow landowners to enter into No Spray Zone agreements. However, there are some conditions that current and prospective No Spray Zone holders need to be aware of.



- If a No Spray Zone is not being maintained as required in the Agreement the County may, at its option, spray or brush axe the area within the zone. The cost of doing this will be billed back to the holder of the No Spray Zone Agreement.
- No Spray Zones will be issued for a period of one year only. Zones will be inspected by County staff annually and renewal of the Agreement is dependent on satisfactory maintenance of the zone by the landowner.
- If a brush-related safety hazard exists within a No Spray Zone, the County will remove the hazard without notice or delay and may bill the cost to the holder of the No Spray Zone Agreement
- Holders of a No Spray Zone Agreement will be considered to be liable in the event of an accident or injury resulting from uncontrolled brush growth in their No Spray Zone

**All brush less that two meters in height must be removed. Pursuant to the Weed Control Act, all noxious weeds must be controlled and any restricted weeds must be eradicated.**



#### A Self-Serve Option for Scentless Chamomile Control

The Agricultural Service Board has some portable sprayers available, which have a small amount of Milestone™ Herbicide, for use by individuals who have some Scentless Chamomile on their farms or acreages. These are available on a first come first served basis and are offered at no charge provided the spray bottle and any unused solution are returned to the ASB.

## COMMUNITY WATER WELLS

The five County of Vermilion River Community Water Wells are available for agricultural use to County residents.

Users are reminded to be respectful of these facilities at all times. No Chemicals or Sprayers are allowed on site.

Recent acts of misuse, such as driving away with the hose still attached to the vehicle and thus pulling the hose out of the well, have resulted in down time at the wells, and increased repair/operational costs. Safe and proper use of these wells will result in their availability to all customers.

Our 24-hour emergency service number, 780-871-8616, is available for your convenience until June 30, 2008, should the wells be malfunctioning during spraying season.

## GAS UTILITY

### NATURAL GAS CONTRACT RATES

Rural Services	\$3,500
Rural Services under 200 feet (Excluding subdivisions)	\$2,500
Urban Services	\$1,800
Grain Dryers & Irrigation Services (from 2 - 8,000,000 BTU's)	\$4,500
Grain Dryers and Irrigation Services (over 8,000,000 BTU's)	Cost established on individual basis
Commercial Services (Non-grantable)	Cost established on individual basis

If the total cost of the gas contract exceeds the existing rates established, you will be required to pay 25% of all additional installation costs. There are extra costs for services installed in frost conditions, at the discretion of the Gas Utility Manager.

The deadline for anyone interested in having new gas services installed this year is August 1. If you have not been into our office and requested a quote, or if you have received a quote, but have not signed a gas contract, please contact our office immediately to advise us of the status of the new service.

Services will be installed on a first-come, first-served basis, so the sooner we have your information and payment, the sooner your new gas service will be installed.

**Please book new and secondary services early – do not wait until fall, as we foresee a busy construction year and do not guarantee service after September 15.**

### EQUAL BILLING/MONTHLY BUDGET PLAN

Spring is here and once again it is time to sign up for Equal Billing, also known as the Monthly Budget Plan. Applications have been sent out with your May billing, to be returned by June 5th.

This plan is a convenient way to pay your natural gas bill in equal monthly amounts, especially for people on fixed incomes and for seniors. The amount you pay is based on your 2007 gas consumption, calculated at the current gas rate.

Adjustments to this amount will only be made if there is a large variation in the wholesale cost of natural gas.

*Monthly meter readings are still required, if you decide to join this plan.*

### LEAK DETECTION

In an ongoing effort to balance wholesale purchases to retail sales, the County will be continuing with Natural Gas Leak Detection in scheduled areas.

Meter sets, regulator stations and pipelines will be inspected for abnormalities and leaks. When working in your fields this spring, please advise us of any circular patches of dead vegetation, as this could mean you have a gas leak, possibly caused by a gopher chew.

If you smell mercaptan (or skunk as it is sometimes called) while walking or driving down County roads, please advise us, as this could mean a gas leak where our pipeline crosses a road, or a regulator station that is venting.

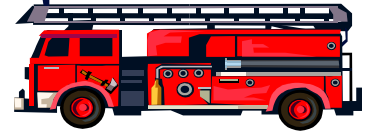
*Your eyes and reporting such incidents to us will help us minimize gas loss and keep gas rates reasonable.*

## PROTECTIVE SERVICES

### FIRE PERMITS ARE FREE AND MANDATORY

Individuals wishing to burn in the County of Vermilion River must obtain a fire permit before lighting a fire. You can, however, burn without a fire permit when:

- The fire is in an incinerator (fire-burning barrel)
- The fire is a smudge fire
- The fire is a recreational fire (contained campfire or fire pit)



This mandatory permit is required year-round even if wet conditions exist. You can obtain a permit at the County of Vermilion River office between 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday, or from your area Councilors. A permit may also be faxed to you for signature, if you are unable to attend the office in person.

**Burning without a permit carries a minimum fine of \$300.00 plus any related costs for extinguishing the fire.**

**Any fire trucks responding to an un-permitted fire will be charged out at \$100.00 per hour per truck plus the cost of any extra equipment.**

**Fires must be extinguished when the permit expires. A \$300.00 penalty, plus any related costs for extinguishing the fire, will be charged for fires that are not extinguished.**

### **FIRE BANS**

Fire bans can and will be placed when conditions are at risk for running fires. When a fire ban is placed you will be notified by our dispatch center when you activate your permit.

Immediately after Council places a ban, the local radio and television stations are notified and they will announce that the ban is in effect. The media will also announce when the ban is lifted.

The County does not want to inconvenience any of its ratepayers with permits and bans, but action has to be taken for the safety of life and property.

## PUBLIC WORKS

### **DUST CONTROL PROGRAM**

Council has approved PW 006 Residential Dust control and have set the costs for Dust Control for the 2008 year

Costs are as follows:

\$10.00 per meter for the first 100 meters.

For each additional meter of dust control, the cost is \$20.00 per meter to a maximum of 200 meters per rate payer.

At no time will dust control (existing or new) exceed 200 meters. This means that if a ratepayer currently has 100 meters they can only purchase 100 meters more to be charged accordingly (\$20.00/ meter)

Applications must be in by **June 15, 2008** in order to be applied in 2008. If applications are received after the date, they will go on the 2009 list.

*All applications will be done before June 30, 2008, weather permitting*



## V.R.R.H.C.C

### **VERMILION RIVER REGIONAL HEALTHY COMMUNITIES COALITION** **Raising Successful Young People – Endless Possibilities!**



In April, two members of the Vermilion River Region Healthy Coalition (VRRHCC) attended the *Search Institute's 40 Developmental Assets*<sup>®</sup> training seminar...and learned a lot!

The *Search Institute's 40 Developmental Assets*<sup>®</sup> are concrete, common sense, positive experiences and qualities essential to raising successful young people. These assets have the power – during critical adolescent years – to influence choices young people make and help them become caring, responsible adults.

There are 40 assets that are divided into 8 types of assets: Support; Empowerment; Boundaries and Expectations; Constructive Use of Time; Commitment to Learning; Positive Values; Social Competencies; and Positive Identity.

There are many ways that an adult can strengthen a young person's assets, and they are easily incorporated into daily life. The things you can do to help young people in your community are so simple: learn the names of all the young people in your neighborhood; attend school-sponsored concerts, plays, or sporting events (even if you don't have kids); treat children, youth, and adults with respect...the possibilities are endless.

For more information on the *40 Developmental Assets*, please contact Susan McCulley or Candice Smith. It takes a community to raise a child, and your community needs you.

#### **PARTNERING GOVERNMENT AGENCIES CONTACT INFORMATION**

**Alberta Alcohol & Drug Abuse Commission (AADAC)**  
Wainwright Area Office  
(780) 842-7619

**East Central Health (ECH)**  
Susan McCulley – Health Promotion Programmer  
Tel (780) 842-4077  
(To call toll free dial 310-000-842-4077)

**Family and Community Support Services (FCSS)**  
Carol Coleman  
(780) 853-5358

**Family School Liaison (FSL)**  
Pat Calyniuk  
Contact local school office for assistance

## DID YOU KNOW.....

The County is part of the Northern Lights Library System which offers an annual \$1,000 bursary for one recipient student who is entering into the profession of librarianship.

All eligible applicants will receive a one year membership to any library within the N.L.L.S.

Application deadline is October 31, 2008 and is available at [www.nlls.ab.ca](http://www.nlls.ab.ca)

## NORTHERN LIGHTS LIBRARIES—HOURS AND PROGRAMS

### Three Cities Public Library—Paradise Valley 780-745-2277

Wednesday 1:00pm—8:00pm  
Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 9:00am—4:00pm July 8 to August 15, 2008

Summer Reading Program Available  
Daryl Robb, from Down by the Docks will be here July 21st

### Marwayne Public Library 780-847-3930

Wednesday 1:00pm—7:00pm July 16 to August 31, 2008  
Thursday 10:00am—1:00pm

### Vermilion Public Library 780-853-4288

Tuesday 10:00am—7:00pm [www.vermilionpubliclibrary.ca](http://www.vermilionpubliclibrary.ca)  
Wednesday & Friday 10:00am—5:30pm  
Thursday 10:00am—8:00pm  
Saturday 10:00am—5:00pm

### Annual Card Issuance Fees for County of Vermilion River Residents

Junior (age 0-15) \$5.00      Adult (age 16 +) \$15.00      Family \$20

### Transfer Station Hours

#### VERMILION RIVER REGIONAL WASTE MANAGEMENT SERVICES COMMISSION

**Manager: Shirley Schwartz**  
**Phone: (780) 853-5561**  
**Fax: (780) 853-4532**  
**E-mail: [vrrwmsc@telus.net](mailto:vrrwmsc@telus.net)**

Kitscoty: (SE 35-50-3 W4)

Wed: 2:00—5:00 p.m.  
Wed: 2:00—7:00 p.m.

Sat: 10:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m. (Nov 1-Apr 30)  
Sat: 10:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m. (May 1-Oct 31)

Marwayne: (SE 34-52-3 W4)

Wed: 2:00—5:00 p.m.  
Wed: 2:00—7:00 p.m.

Sat: 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m. (Nov 1-Apr 30)  
Sat: 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m. (May 1-Oct 31)

Clandonald/Dewberry:  
(NE 11-53-5 W4)

Thurs: 12:00— 5:00 p.m.

Sat: 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

Paradise Valley: (NW 7-47-2 W4)

Wed: 10:00 a.m. — 12:00 p.m. Sat: 9:00 a.m. — 2:00 p.m.

Tulliby Lake: (NW 6-55-1 W4)

Wed: 10:00 a.m. — 2:00 p.m.

Preston: (SW 30-48-6 W4)

Sat: 10:00 a.m. — 2:00 p.m.

Vermilion: (SW 5-51-6 W4)

Monday through Saturday (except Stat Hol) 9:00 a.m. — 5:00 p.m.

### COUNTY ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

Street Address: 4912-50 Ave  
Kitscoty, AB

Mailing Address: Box 69  
Kitscoty, AB  
T0B 2P0

Phone: (780) 846-2244  
Vermilion Line: (780) 853-5492  
Fax: (780) 846-2716

E-mail: [county24@telusplanet.net](mailto:county24@telusplanet.net)  
Website: [www.vermilion-river.ab.ca](http://www.vermilion-river.ab.ca)