



# County of VERMILION River

## Summer Newsletter

### Inside this issue:

Planning & Development	2
Protective Services	2
Gas Utility	3-4
Public Works	4-5
VRRHC	6
Senior's Corner	7
Ag. Service Board	7
Other Information	8
Transfer Station Hours	8

### Please Note.....

Our office will be **closed** the following days from 12:00pm to 1:00 pm for safety meetings:

June 22, July 23, August 27, and September 24

You can still use our drop box if necessary

Our Office will also be **closed July 1 and August 2 for Stat Holidays**

### **DUE DATE FOR PAYMENT OF TAXES IS SEPTEMBER 30, 2010**

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**

2010 TAX INFO – MILLRATES	MUNICIPAL		SCHOOL-PUBLIC/SEPARATE	
	2009	2010	2009	2010
Residential-General	1.9120	2.1708	2.3690	2.3103
Residential-Hamlet (Blackfoot)	3.9232	4.6980	2.3690	2.3103
Residential-Hamlets (Clandonald)	6.3502	6.3751	2.3690	2.3103
Residential-Hamlets (Islay)	5.3502	5.3751	2.3690	2.3103
Residential-Hamlets (McLaughlin)	4.8505	4.8751	2.3690	2.3103
Residential-Hamlets (Rivercourse)	6.3502	6.6251	2.3690	2.3103
Residential-Hamlets (Streamstown)	5.3502	5.3751	2.3690	2.3103
Residential-Hamlets (Tulliby Lake)	4.8502	4.8751	2.3690	2.3103
Farmland	8.9134	9.7362	2.3690	2.3103
Non Res.	10.3287	10.5457	3.6046	3.7744
General Rec.	0.0858	0.1371		
Vermilion Rec. Area	0.4927	0.4715		
Other (Average)	0.2604	0.1931		

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### **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 with drawn 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 20<sup>TH</sup> TO JULY 21<sup>ST</sup> 2010 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:1-800-310-0000) 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

### The County of Vermilion River is pleased to announce the recent launch of

BizPaL is an innovative project that provides entrepreneurs with simplified access to the information on permits and licenses that they need to establish and run their businesses. This unique partnership among federal, provincial, territorial, regional and local governments is designed to cut through the paperwork burden and red tape that small business owners encounter.

With BizPal all the business owner has to do is answer a short series of questions about the current or proposed business to create a customized list of the permits and licences that may be needed from all levels of government. A one stop approach toward ensuring the business owner can easily access the required permits from a link on our website, [www.vermilion-river.com](http://www.vermilion-river.com).



### CONSERVATION OF AGRICULTURAL LAND REPORT

The County of Vermilion River Municipal Development Plan identifies conservation of agricultural land as a priority. Therefore, we wish to develop a definite set of strategies to accomplish this while allowing for sustainable growth in the municipality.

We wish to be prepared for the implementation of the Land Stewardship Act and the Regional Advisory Board that will be established for our North Saskatchewan Region with its emphasis on agriculture and wetland conservation. Watch our website for the latest information on this study.

## Protective Services



### FIRE BANS



**During a fire ban, there will be absolutely NO BURNING!**

This includes: burning barrels, smudge, and recreational fires. All fire permits issued are cancelled until further notice.

Burning without a permit, or during a fire ban, could result in a minimum penalty of \$300.00, plus any related costs for extinguishing the fire.

When fires burn out of control in our County, extra demand is placed on staff and our volunteer fire fighters, creating large costs. The County will be aggressively pursuing cost recovery from individuals who light fires during a ban, or burn without a permit.

## Gas Utility

### NATURAL GAS CONTRACT RATES

Rural Services	\$4,000 minimum
Rural Services under 200 feet (Excluding subdivisions)	\$3,000 minimum
Urban Services	\$1,800 minimum
Grain Dryers and Irrigation Services	Cost established on individual basis
Commercial Services (Non-grantable)	Cost established on individual basis

The provincial government grant threshold for new gas services recently increased to \$5,000. This means that the County receives zero grant dollars for new services costing less than \$5,000. County Council, after review of the 2009 infill construction costs, made a decision to increase the 2010 natural gas contract rates as above.

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, with installation 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 as soon as possible in June.

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 2009 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 cooperation by reporting such incidents and by sending in monthly meter reads as close to month end as possible, is necessary to aid us in balancing the system, helps to minimize gas loss and keeps gas rates reasonable and operational costs down.*

## Gas Utility

### CALL BEFORE YOU DIG!!

If you plan to disturb the ground, as part of your planning process, find out where the buried facilities, that are owned by the utilities, are located on your property. Contact Alberta One-Call at least 2 full working days before you plan to start.

When phoning, please have the following information ready:

- Your name
- Address
- Daytime phone number
- Type of work you will be doing
- Approximate depth of the ground disturbance
- Type of property (public or private)
- Date you need locates done by



Alberta One-Call will provide you with a "Ticket Number," which you should keep for future reference and a list of Alberta One-Call's members that will be notified on your behalf. **There is no charge to you for this service.**

## Public Works



We missed you at our new Maintenance Shop Grand Opening that was held on April 20, 2010.

#### COSTS FOR MAINTENANCE SHOP

Amount Budgeted for Project	\$2,000,000.00
Awarded Bid Price	\$1,343,250.00
Extra Equipment and Material	\$448,747.74
M. S. I. Grant Utilized	\$1,791,997.74



#### ENERGY SAVING EQUIPMENT:

Used Oil Burning Furnace: Model CB-5000  
 Maximum BTU/hour - 500,000 (146 kW)  
 Maximum oil consumption -13.6 L/h (3.6 GPH)

**Anchor System:**  
 Used to Straighten Heavy Steel ,  
 Maximum Pulling Force For System is 80,000 lbs.

## Public Works

### DUST CONTROL INFORMATION

The cost for dust control is \$10 per meter for the first 100 meters. For each additional meter of dust control, the cost is \$20 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/ meter)

All Applications must be in by June 15, 2010 in order to be applied in 2010. If applications are received after the date, they will go on the 2011 list.

[All Dust Control Applications Will Be Completed Before June 30, 2010, Weather Permitting](#)

## 2010 PROJECTS

### CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

Township Road 520 from Range Road 71 to Range Road 72 (1 mile)

Township Road 524 from Range Road 42 to Range Road 43 (1 mile)

Range Road 80 North of Highway 619 (2 miles)

Bridge File 09662 (finish road over culvert)



### ARTERIAL ROADS

Township Road 474 from Range Road 31 to Range Road 35 (4 miles)

Township Road 505 West of Vermilion (3 miles)

### COST SHARE PROJECTS

Range Road 32 South of Highway 16 - 2.5 miles (Rock and Husky)

Range Road 24 North of 641 - 2 miles (CNRL)

Township Road 540 from range Road 45 to Range Road 50 - 2 miles (Husky)

Slim Thorpe Access Road (Slim Thorpe)



### GRANT PROJECTS

Range Road 20 South of Township Road 480 (2 miles)

Township Road 474 from Range Road 35 to Range Road 41 (2 miles)

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

### UPCOMING EVENTS FOR THE VERMILION RIVER REGIONAL HEALTHY COMMUNITIES COALITION

#### Great Kids Award

- Celebration will be held June 7, 2010.

48 youth were nominated; community breakdown is as follows:

Vermilion- 20	Innisfree-1
Kitscoty- 5	Marwayne- 14
Clandonald-1	Mannville- 5
Paradise Valley-2	



*Thank you to everyone who nominated a Great Kid in your community.*

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

##### Alberta Health Services – Central Zone (East)

Susan McCulley – Health Promotion Facilitator  
(780) 842-4077  
(toll free 310-0000-842-4077)

##### Family and Community Support Services

(FCSS)  
Carol Coleman  
(780) 853-5358

##### RCMP

Vermilion detachment (780) 853-4441  
Kitscoty detachment (780) 846-2870

##### Alberta Health Services – Addictions & Mental Health

Wainwright Area Office  
780) 842-7619

##### Family School Liaison (FSL)

Pat Calyniuk  
780) 853-4164  
or contact your local school office for assistance

### *There Are 40. . . .*

Search Institute has identified 40 positive experiences and qualities - developmental assets - that all of us have the power to bring into the lives of children and youth.

#### **#26 Caring**

- \*Teach children how to care for special things, such as toys, outfits, or plants, by themselves
- \*Interact in caring, responsible ways with people of all ages. Encourage youth to do the same
- \*Encourage teenagers to volunteer with at least one organization

This message was adapted from Search Institute's *Pass It On*, 2006. Brought to you by the Vermilion River Regional Healthy Communities Coalition.

If you have any questions or would like more information please contact your Community Youth Worker  
Candice McLean at 780-872-6495 or [candice.mclean@btps.ca](mailto:candice.mclean@btps.ca)

## Seniors Corner

### NEW DRUG PROGRAM FOR SENIORS DELAYED

Existing drug coverage for seniors will remain available to all Albertans 65 years and older. Seniors with this coverage will continue to pay a co-payment of 30 percent of each prescription's cost to a maximum of \$25.00 per prescription. The existing program will continue to provide coverage for prescription drugs, ambulance services, clinical psychological services, and home nursing care.

Proposed changes to Alberta's seniors' drug plan scheduled to take effect on July 1, 2010, have been delayed in order to address necessary legislative and regulatory changes and align with other government programs for seniors.

### SENIOR'S WEEK

The County of Vermilion River, Villages, and the Town of Vermilion Family Community Support Services take this opportunity to acknowledge the achievements that have been made by our senior population. As founding pioneers of our local communities we are proud to Celebrate Seniors' current and future contributions during [Senior Week June 7 - 13, 2010](#).

We believe that education is the greatest advantage we can provide seniors of our communities with to make informed decisions. All senior citizens from our region are invited to attend this senior event.

**"CELEBRATE THE PAST, LOOK TO THE FUTURE"**

Educating Seniors to become proactive in protecting themselves and their property and informing seniors about programs that are available.

Kitscoty & District Senior Centre  
(4921 - 50 Avenue)  
Wednesday June 9, 2010

Doors open at 1:00p.m.

Session starts at 2:00p.m.

Refreshments will be served

For more information contact Shirley McRobert at 780-581-2414 County/Town Seniors' Coordinator

## Ag. Service Board

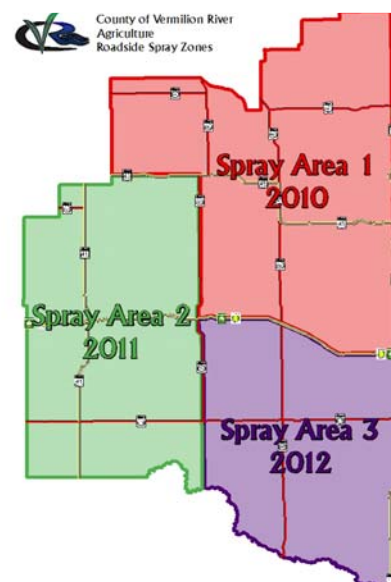
### NO SPRAY ZONES

No Spray Zone Agreements are valid for one season and expire at the end of September each year.

If you wish to renew an old Agreement or would like enter into a new Agreement please contact the office.

Areas for which there is no current Agreement will be included in the roadside spraying program.

This year we will be focusing our efforts in Area 1 but locations recently hydro-axed in other parts of the County will be sprayed as well.



# Summer Newsletter

## THE COUNTY OF VERMILION RIVER WILL BE EXPERIENCING A CHANGE IN LEADERSHIP THIS SUMMER....

County Council announces the retirement of Glenda Thomas as County Administrator effective June 30, 2010. Glenda began her career with the County in 1989 and after serving as Assistant Administrator for four years and obtaining her Certificate in Local Government with distinction from the U of A, was promoted to the position of County Administrator in July 1999.



Reeve, Richard Van Ee stated "On behalf of County Council and staff, I extend our sincere gratitude and appreciation to Glenda Thomas for her leadership, dedication and commitment to the Council, staff and ratepayers of the County of Vermilion River during her tenure.

*"We wish Glenda and her family well as they embark on the next phase of their life journey."*

Glenda has left her mark on the municipality as she has guided the County through many legislative and demographic changes and significant development and growth.

\* \* \* \* \*

Reeve Van Ee is pleased to announce that Rhonda King, CLGM, has been appointed CAO of the County of Vermilion River effective July 1, 2010.



Rhonda has been employed with the County since 1997 and was appointed to the position of Assistant Administrator in 1999.

Rhonda comes from an agricultural background, received her formal education through Lakeland College and the University of Alberta and is an active community member. Reeve Van Ee stated that "the County Council has selected a well qualified candidate in Rhonda King to fill the County's leadership role. Rhonda's eleven years of senior management with the County of Vermilion River has provided her with a thorough understanding and knowledge of County operations.

*"Council is confident that Rhonda exemplifies the leadership qualities necessary to guide the County in the future."*

<b>WASTE MANAGEMENT</b>  <b>VERMILION RIVER REGIONAL WASTE MANAGEMENT SERVICES COMMISSION</b>  <b>Manager: Shirley Schwartz</b> <b>Phone: (780) 853-5561</b> <b>Fax: (780) 853-4532</b> <b>E-mail: vrrwmsc@telus.net</b>	<b>Transfer Station Hours</b> <u>Kitscoty:</u> (SE 35-50-3 W4)	<b>Wed: 2:00 p.m.—5:00 p.m.</b> <b>Wed: 2:00 p.m.—7:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Sat: 10:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m. (Nov 1-Apr 30)</b> <b>Sat: 10:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m. (May 1-Oct 31)</b> <b>Thur: 1:00 p.m.—5:00 p.m.</b>
	<u>Marwayne:</u> (SE 34-52-3 W4)	<b>Wed: 2:00 p.m.—5:00 p.m.</b> <b>Wed: 2:00 p.m.—7:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Sat: 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m. (Nov 1-Apr 30)</b> <b>Sat: 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m. (May 1-Oct 31)</b>
	<u>Clandonald/Dewberry:</u> (NE 11-53-5 W4)	Thur: 12:00 p.m.—5:00 p.m.	Sat: 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.
	<u>Paradise Valley:</u> (NW 7-47-2 W4)	Wed: 10:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.	Sat: 9:00 a.m. — 2:00 p.m.
	<u>Preston:</u> (SW 30-48-6 W4)	Sat: 10:00 a.m. — 2:00 p.m.	
	<u>Tulliby Lake:</u> (NW 6-55-1 W4)	Sat 10:00 a.m. —2:00 p.m. (under review)	
	<u>Vermilion:</u> (SW 5-51-6 W4)	Monday through Saturday (except Stat Hol)	9:00 a.m. — 4:45 p.m.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATION OFFICE			
Street Address:	4912-50 Ave Kitscoty, AB	Mailing Address:	Box 69 Kitscoty, AB T0B 2P0
Phone:	(780)846-2244	E-mail:	county24@telusplanet.net
Gas Utilities:	(780)846-2222		gasut@county24.com
Vermilion Line:	(780)853-5492	Website:	www.vermilion-river.com
Fax:	(780)846-2716		

Our Dog Control Officer is Sabra Patmore. She can be reached at 306-821-0445