

Fall 2011 Newsletter

In This Issue.....

<u>Highlights</u>	<u>Page</u>
FCSS Call for Funding	2
Emergency Public Warning System	3
Disaster Recovery Program	3
Traffic Safety	4
BizPal & Subdivision Information	5
Nominations for Agriculture Awards	5
Agriculture Awards	5
Vermilion Region Partnership Breakfast	6
Future Hamlet/Division Meetings	7
Blackfoot Lot Sales	7
Deadline for New Gas Service	8
Meter Reads	8
Clubroot of Canola	9
New Fireworks Bylaw	10

TAX DEADLINE REMINDER

The County of Vermilion River Tax
Deadline is 4:30 p.m.
September 30, 2011

Payment must be received at the County Office on or before the deadline and mail must be postmarked on or before September 30, 2011. For after hours, please use our payment drop off box that is located beside the door of the County Office in Kitscoty.

In order to avoid the penalty, we suggest that you send us a postdated cheque.

Deadline is FIRM, penalty applies after deadline.

Senior Citizens Take Note: You must pay your taxes and apply to the Alberta Education Property Tax Assistance for Seniors Program for any rebate.

For more information on this program, please call Shirley McRobert at 780-853-5358



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR COMMUNITY?

The Vermilion River Regional Alliance (VRRRA) will soon be publishing the fall/winter edition of the "Calendar of Events" to promote local tourism and community events in the Vermilion River region. This edition will include events happening between November 1, 2011 and April 30, 2012.

Please submit your events to swilliams@county24.com by September 19th to have your event included in the publication. Please include the name of the event, date & time, location, cost and contact information.

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS 2011 FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES (F.C.S.S.) PROGRAM FUNDING

The County of Vermilion River, Town of Vermilion and Villages of Dewberry, Kitscoty, Marwayne and Paradise Valley are now accepting applications for 2011 Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) funding.

The Province of Alberta and local municipalities have jointly funded preventive social services for Albertans through the FCSS program since 1966. Funded agencies design and deliver social programs that are preventive in nature to promote and enhance well-being among individuals, families, and communities.

Application forms are available at the County, Town or Village Offices and can also be downloaded from the County of Vermilion River website at www.vermilion-river.com or the Town of Vermilion website at www.vermilion.ca

Applications to the County of Vermilion River, Town of Vermilion, and Villages of Dewberry, Kitscoty, Marwayne and Paradise Valley must be received at the municipal offices no later than September 15, 2011.

Please note that if you wish to apply for funding from more than one municipality separate applications must be submitted to each office. Inquiries may be directed to the FCSS Coordinator at the municipal office you are applying to for funding.

Participating Municipalities:

County of Vermilion River, Box 69, Kitscoty, AB T0B 2P0, (780) 846-2244 or (780) 853-5492

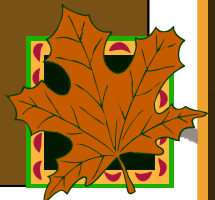
Town of Vermilion, 5021-49 Ave., Vermilion, AB T9X 1X1, (780) 853-5358

Village of Dewberry, Box 30, Dewberry, AB TOB 1G0, (780) 847-3053

Village of Kitscoty, Box 128, Kitscoty, AB TOB 2P0, (780) 846-2221

Village of Marwayne, Box 113, Marwayne, AB TOB 2X0, (780) 847-3962

Village of Paradise Valley, Box 24, Paradise Valley, AB TOB 3R0, (780) 745-2287



COUNTY OF VERMILION RIVER CONFIRMS CLUBROOT OF CANOLA

The County of Vermilion River Agriculture Service Board has confirmed the first occurrence of clubroot of canola within the County.

The County has conducted a thorough inspection of a canola crop in the Vermilion area and has confirmed a crop is infected with the disease which can substantially reduce crop yield. Howie Bjorge, Agricultural Fieldman, explained that several precautions are being taken to prevent the spread of the disease. “The County has restricted access to the affected field, expanded the clubroot survey and increased the number of samples being submitted for analysis. We are informing industry partners that equipment must be thoroughly cleaned before entering the County”. Investigation is continuing into identifying the mechanism of contamination.

Crucifer crops, including cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower, mustard and canola, can be infected by this soil-borne disease. Clubroot is especially problematic because the pathogen persists in soil for many years and cannot be controlled with crop protection products currently registered in Canada. The causal agent infects roots resulting in irregular club-like galls that restrict the flow of water and nutrients to leaves, stems and pods. Visible symptoms on the plant include wilting, stunted growth, yellowing, premature ripening and shrivelled seed.

Reeve Richard Van Ee expressed Council’s concern with the serious nature of this infection and the impact it can have on this major crop. “Producers and land owners are the stewards of their lands and extreme caution must be used to safeguard against the spread of this disease. Producers must be diligent in cleaning their equipment before moving between fields while landowners have the authority to request others accessing their land, such as hunters, custom equipment operators or resource companies, to exercise the same precautions before entering fields.”

Detailed information on clubroot in canola can be found in the Alberta Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development clubroot management plan document on the website at [www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\\$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/agdex11519](http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/agdex11519).



Inquiries may be directed to:

Howie Bjorge

Agriculture Fieldman

County of Vermilion River

780-846-2244 or 780-853-5492



Safety During Detours / Reroutes

The County of Vermilion River would like to remind everyone to take caution when being detoured / rerouted due to construction or an accident.

Did You Know...

- Construction or maintenance zones will have roadway signs in advance to warn motorists that roadwork is being done.
- Flashing lights from Emergency Response Vehicles will warn motorists of a problem ahead.
- When approaching an emergency or construction/maintenance situation, exercise caution and slow down.
- Always be aware that vehicles ahead of you may stop unexpectedly.
- Obey directions by flag people or emergency workers.
- Always leave plenty of space between your vehicle and other people and equipment parked or being operated at these location.

CAUTION

When Lights Are Flashing, Pull Over To The Right and Stop



Avoid Watching the Emergency.

Keep Focused On Driving

Just a reminder to all residents of the County of Vermilion River to Please Drive Carefully and Slow Down on County Roads. The speed limit on all County Roads (gravel and hard top) is

80 km/hour.




Slow Down and Save Lives





BizPaL
Your online source for
Business Permits and Licences

Your One Stop Shop for Information About Business Requirements



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.

The link to BizPal can be found on the County website homepage at www.vermilion-river.com under 'Quicklinks'

Looking to Subdivide or Change the Use of Your Land?

With the development season slowing down into the winter months many landowners are looking at subdividing or changing the use of their lands. Please be advised that subdivision information can be accessed on the County website under the Planning and Development page. Depending on the nature of your application the County may require additional tests, redesignations or the implementation of an Area Structure Plan. As such, we always suggest talking to a Planning and Development representative prior to submission in order to fully understand the complexity of your proposal.



NOMINATIONS FOR AGRICULTURE AWARDS

The Agricultural Service Board is seeking nominations for the 2011 "Agriculture Producer of the Year" and "Agri-Business of the Year" awards. Submit your nominations to Howie Bjorge, Agricultural Fieldman, by mail, fax (780)846-2716 or e-mail to

county24@telusplanet.net



NOMINATE A VERMILION REGION AMBASSADOR!

The Vermilion Region Partnership is initiating a Community Ambassador Program – a regional word-of-mouth promotion campaign delivered via our greatest resource – our Residents! Ambassadors promote the region wherever they travel and to whomever they meet, utilizing their firsthand knowledge and passion for their community.

Who can be an Ambassador? Ambassadors are individuals with unique personal strengths, accomplishments and connections to the Vermilion Region. Any person in our region can be nominated as an Ambassador – student, entrepreneur, professional, retiree or stay-at-home Mom.

Nominate a worthy Ambassador from your community now. We look forward to inducting our first Vermilion Region Ambassadors at the Vermilion Region Partnership Breakfast on November 1, 2011 in Kitscoty. Nomination forms are available on the County website or can be picked up at the County Administration Office. Forms can be returned to Sharon Williams, Economic Development Officer by fax, e-mail or in person.



SAVE THE DATE!!!

Tuesday, November 1, 2011

Vermilion Region

Partnership Breakfast

Coming to the Kitscoty Community Hall

~ Hosted by ~

County of Vermilion River

Alberta Employment & Immigration

Vermilion & District Chamber of Commerce

Community Futures Lloydminster & Region

Town of Vermilion

Lakeland College

Rotary Club of Vermilion

Keep watching local newspapers for details!



Future Hamlet / Division Meetings

Every year, the County of Vermilion River holds annual Hamlet / Division Meetings. These meetings are held as an informal way of meeting with your local Councillor and Management to address topics in your community.

Streamstown Hamlet Meeting
(Streamstown Hall)

October 11, 2011 7:00 p.m.

Division 3 & 4 Meeting
(Vermilion Seniors Center)

October 25, 2011 7:00 p.m.

BLACKFOOT PHASE 2

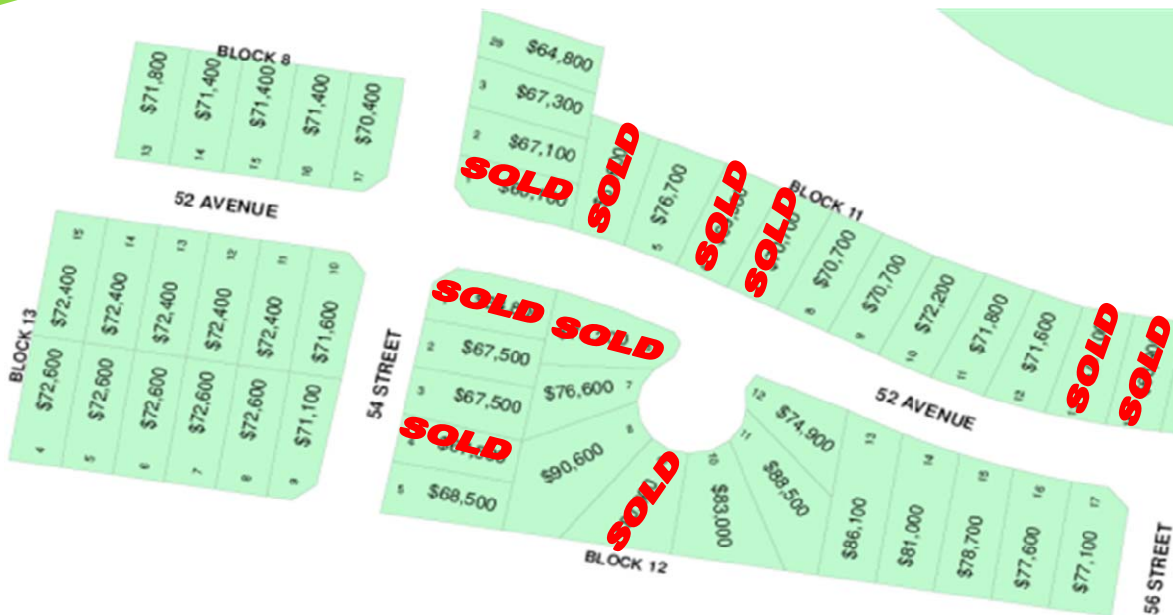
LOTS NOW ON SALE

A CHANCE TO WIN A REBATE OF \$20,000

All lots sold between February 8, 2011—December 31, 2011 will be entered into a draw for a chance to win **\$20,000 !!!!**

Lot Prices Ranging From \$64,800.00 to \$90,600.00

Prices slashed by \$10,000 on the next 5 lots sold!!!



DEADLINE FOR NEW AND SECONDARY GAS SERVICES

The deadline for anyone interested in having new gas services installed this year is September 15. 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 now, as we do not guarantee service after September 15.

FARMERS—WE NEED YOUR HELP

As harvest will be underway soon, we are requesting farmers notify us of any circular patches of dead vegetation in their fields that they feel were not caused by standing water. This information could help us to identify gas leaks caused by gopher chews, lightning strikes, damaged lines, etc.

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.

Please contact us at (780) 846-2222, as soon as possible, if you have any information that might help identify any gas leaks.



PLANNING A WINTER HOLIDAY???

For all natural gas customers planning to be away for an extended period of time during the heating months, before your departure, please provide our Natural Gas Utility with the name and number of your custodian that will be reading your meter and occasionally checking your home. This will allow our service personnel the ability to contact someone in the case of an unforeseen incident, allowing access to your property to relight appliances, if necessary.

It is also a requirement of your insurance policy to have your home inspected at least every 3rd day during your absence.

Disaster Recovery Program

The County of Vermilion River has applied for Disaster Recovery Assistance following the severe storm that caused extensive damage in the Paradise Valley / McLaughlin area on July 18, 2011.

We are currently awaiting a decision from Alberta Emergency Management Agency. As we have updates on the status of this disaster, they are being posted to our webpage www.vermilion-river.com

INSURANCE COVERAGE

This summer proved that events like this can happen to anyone at any time, so we encourage residents to contact your insurance provider to ensure you have the coverage that you require.



ALBERTA'S EMERGENCY PUBLIC WARNING SYSTEM

In 1992, the government of Alberta created the Emergency Public Warning System (EPWS) to warn the public of imminent danger. It was the first system of its kind to utilize media outlets to broadcast critical life-saving information directly to the public.

In the fall of 2011, the EPWS will be retired, and replaced with Alberta Emergency Alert. This new system will still utilize media outlets to broadcast information. It also adds internet alerts through the Alberta Emergency Alert website, as well as Twitter and Facebook updates.

For more information visit www.emergencyalert.alberta.ca

**Please Note:
The County Office Will be Closed on the Following Days:**

October 10, 2011 (Thanksgiving)

November 11, 2011 (Remembrance Day)

County Administration Office

Street Address: 4912-50 Ave
Kitscoty, AB

Mailing Address: Box 69
Kitscoty, AB
T0B 2P0

Phone: (780)846-2244

Email: county24@telusplanet.net

Gas Utilities: (780)846-2222

Email: gasut@county24.com

Vermilion Line: (780)853-5492

Website: www.vermilion-river.com

Fax: (780)846-2716

Department Contacts

County Administrator—Rhonda King, CLGM

rking@county24.com

Agriculture Fieldman—Howie Borge

hbjorge@county24.com

Development Officer—Keegan Rutherford

krutherford@county24.com

Natural Gas Utility Manager—Dale Swyripa

dswyripa@county24.com

Protective Services Officer—Orest Popil

opopil@county24.com

Public Works Superintendent—Randy Belliveau

publicworks@county24.com

Water & Sewer Manager—Darrell Stefanick

dstefanick@county24.com

NEW FIREWORKS BYLAW

The County of Vermilion River has enacted a Bylaw for the purpose of providing for the safe possession, sale, storage, purchase and discharge of fireworks in compliance with municipal policy, the Municipal Government Act, the Alberta Fire Code as amended, the Safety Codes Act and the Explosives Act.

Under the Municipal Government Act, the County of Vermilion River enacts Bylaws for the safety, health and welfare of people and the protection of people and property. No person shall wholesale, display for sale, offer for sale, sell, possess or store any fireworks within the County of Vermilion River without the written permission of the County Fire Department.