



# GRAPEVINE

MAY 2020



## Scheduled Meetings

All virtual meetings are open to the public.

To join a Virtual Meeting:  
Visit our website

[www.smokylakecounty.ab.ca/agendas.html](http://www.smokylakecounty.ab.ca/agendas.html)

Regular County Council

May 28, 2020 at 9:00 AM  
Virtual Zoom Meeting

Joint County & Town Council  
Re: Victoria District Economic  
Development Strategy

May 29, 2020 @ 10:00 AM  
Virtual Zoom Meeting

Smoky Lake County  
Main and Public Works  
Offices will be

# CLOSED

Monday,  
May 18, 2020  
for Victoria Day

Box 310  
4612 McDougall Drive  
Smoky Lake, Alberta  
T0A 3C0

### Main Office

Phone: 780-656-3730  
Fax: 780-656-3768  
Toll Free: 888-656-3730

### Natural Gas

Phone: 780-656-3037

### Public Works

Phone: 780-656-3755  
Fax: 780-656-3743

[www.smokylakecounty.ab.ca](http://www.smokylakecounty.ab.ca)

Connect With Us



### THE END OF THE BEGINNING

The adjustment to Covid-19 persists. I heard on the news today that the daily numbers of new cases has started to subside/reduce. This is good news. It means that we have had our first true victory. It is not the final victory.

The Chief Medical Officer of Health for Alberta has stressed continued social distancing. This is wise. Primary services like ours in Smoky Lake County have continued, largely uninterrupted by Covid-19. We have not, thus, contributed to the near-catastrophic numbers of unemployed in this province amid this pandemic. Our social distancing measures are working. They have contributed to the efforts of all Albertans and Canadians and to the present and apparent success of us all.

We will not relent. Churchill once said, "This is not the end. It is not even the beginning of the end. But it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning."

Let this be our anchor. We are in a long game. We must play the long game. Regardless of our passions or desires to return to the old "normal", or our desires to default to old patterns, we must not only be aware that as this pandemic is changing us... so are we changing ourselves and our part of the world. We are being forced to lead ourselves and our neighbours into a new and emerging reality. Despite gravity pulling us down, we have been able to manage and sustain ourselves. We now know that it can be done, that we can overcome the gravity. We are doing it.

Great thanks must go to all front line workers in the public and private sectors that have kept us going through the last couple months. Our gratitude remains daily and in the many thoughtful gestures and glances that social distancing cannot remove.

While we may be in "waves" of Covid-19 for months to come, we are heartened by our own collective resolve to do well by our families, friends, and neighbours each day. As we treat everyone we meet as though WE are the ones unknowingly carrying Covid-19, we make the community and world safer for both ourselves and our family/friends/neighbours. And, yet, still, we find ways to connect.

Stay safe. Stay well. You can. We have.

Cory Ollikka, CAO  
Smoky Lake County

## COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

- Bylaw No. 1376-20: Emergency Electronic Meeting Protocol. **-Passed.**
- Bylaw No. 1373-20: Hamlet of Bellis Sewer System. **-Passed.**
- Bylaw No. 1374-20: Borrowing Bylaw. **-Passed.**
- Policy Statement No. 03-04-06: Hiring of Contract Trucks and Equipment. **-Amended.**
- Audited Smoky Lake County Consolidated Financial Statements Financial Statements and the Smoky Lake County Gas Utility Financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 2019. **-Adopted.**
- Policy Statement No. 03-14-12: Haul Road Agreement. **-Amended.**
- Policy Statement No. 00-38-03: Smoky Lake County Strategic Plan 2018-2020. **-Amended.**
- Bylaw No. 1379-20: Joint Agreement for Regional Community Development Committee (RCDC). **-Passed.**
- Bylaw No. 1377-20: Agricultural Fieldman and Designate Officer. **-Passed.**
- Bylaw No. 1370-20: Victoria Trail Municipal Historic Area Designation. **-Passed.**
- Policy Statement No. 61-24-01: Victoria Trail District National Historic Site Caveat Program. **-Adopted.**
- Policy Statement No. 61-04-03: Smoky Lake Region Strategic Plan. **-Amended.**
- Bylaw No. 1369-20: Ruthenia School Municipal Historic Resource Designation. **-Passed.**
- Policy Statement No. 07-05-01: Victoria Settlement Advisory Committee- Terms of Reference. **-Repealed.**
- Policy Statement No. 61-23-01: Regional Community Development Committee (RCDC): Contractor Performance Appraisal- Economic Development Assistant (EDA). **-Adopted.**
- Policy Statement No. 01M-42-01: Economic Development Assistant- Job Description. **-Adopted.**

## FIRE RESTRICTION

Effective: April 27, 2020 10:00 AM

Smoky Lake County has implemented a Fire Restriction effective 10:00 a.m. April 27, 2020. Smoky Lake County will not be issuing burn permits and all current burn permits are suspended till further notice. With the dry conditions, cured dry grass becoming more prominent and lack of moisture the fire hazard is high at this time.

It is recommended that all burn permits that were issued be checked, to ensure that they are out and not cause a spring grass fire. Recovery of Firefighting Costs: In accordance with Bylaw: Fire Protection Services, as amended from time to time or any costs incurred by the County Fire departments will be charged to the landowner/permit holder, if the Fire Department or County is called upon to respond to extinguish a fire.

Fire pits, warming fires, barbeques and burn barrels will be allowed but must be supervised to ensure that they do not cause a secondary fire.

For further information please contact the Smoky Lake County, (780) 656-3730.

As conditions change, stay up to date by visiting  
[www.albertafirebans.ca](http://www.albertafirebans.ca)



Reeve, Council & Staff  
would like to extend a huge

# THANK YOU

to all essential workers, for all their hard work and  
dedication during these challenging times.

# IMPORTANT NOTICE: CAMPGROUNDS

April 24, 2020

In accordance with Alberta Health Services - Safe Healthy Environments COVID-19 Public Health Recommendations, Smoky Lake County has made the difficult decision to **CLOSE ALL COUNTY OWNED/ OPERATED CAMPGROUNDS** (Bellis Beach, Hanmore Lake, Island Lake, Kaduk Lake and Mons Lake) *until further notice.*



These closures will remain in place until the Province's Chief Medical Officer of Health is confident the health and public safety risk from COVID-19 is reduced. We encourage residents and businesses to continue to follow the public health recommendations as set forth by the Province of Alberta.

## Sewage Backup Prevention Tips



### Backwater Valve

Sewage in a basement or on a ground floor is a mess. Installing a backwater valve can prevent sewers from backing up.

### Sewage Backups Happen

Sewer systems are typically gravity based and flow through to a waste water treatment plant. When a sudden heavy rainstorm flushes debris into mainline storm sewers and sanitary sewers, sewers can backup into homes and businesses. When these two types of sewer systems are overwhelmed, sewers will back up. Tree roots or grease in a home's sewer lines can also lead to backups.

### How a Backwater Valve Helps Prevent Flooding

A mainline backwater valve can help prevent sewage in an overloaded main sewerline from backing up into your basement. Placed directly into the sewer lateral in your basement, the valve automatically closes if sewage backs up from the main sewer.

### Not All Backwater Valves are Equal

Some types of backwater valves, such as the plug type, are not recommended. While they may prevent water from entering your basement, they allow sewer backup pressure to build beneath your basement floor, this can potentially cause structural damage to your home.

*Adapted from 'The Handbook for Reducing Basement Flooding, Institute for Catastrophic Loss Reduction'*

## TAX DEPARTMENT NEWS

Friendly reminder that Smoky Lake County will be sending out Property Tax Notices in the beginning of June. If you have not received your tax notice by June 30th, 2020 please email [cmcmullin@smokylakecounty.ab.ca](mailto:cmcmullin@smokylakecounty.ab.ca) or call the office at 780-656-3730 to have one resent to you.

## POSITIVE COMMUNITY MESSAGES

**Shannon Stubbs, Conservative MP for Lakeland wants to see some positivity! If you have pictures and some information on positive initiatives that have recently developed, please share them. Submit your pictures of hope messages in the windows, a thank you notes, individuals or groups delivering food or making masks and any type of good-news message during these challenging times.**

Let her know at: [Shannon.Stubbs.@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Shannon.Stubbs.@parl.gc.ca)

## Farmer's & Ranchers Appreciation Day BBQ

In compliance with Alberta's Public Health Orders, Smoky Lake County's Farmer's & Ranchers Appreciation Day BBQ, previously scheduled for June 5, 2020 has been

**POSTPONED.**

*We look forward to celebrating all the hard work and dedication of our Farmer's & Ranchers at a later date.*



## SPRING CLEANUP PROMOTION

Smoky Lake County is offering free disposal of appliances containing Freon at County Landfill Sites for residents from the County and Villages

**May 11, 2020 to May 24, 2020**

For more information call Dave Franchuk @ 780-650-1800

|                   |           |                    |
|-------------------|-----------|--------------------|
| <b>Bellis</b>     | Wednesday | 9:00 am to 5:00 pm |
|                   | Saturday  | 9:00 am to 5:00 pm |
| <b>Smoky Lake</b> | Tuesday   | 9:00 am to 5:00 pm |
|                   | Thursday  | 9:00 am to 5:00 pm |
|                   | Saturday  | 9:00 am to 5:00 pm |
| <b>Spedden</b>    | Wednesday | 9:00 am to 5:00 pm |
|                   | Sunday    | 9:00 am to 5:00 pm |
| <b>Vilna</b>      | Tuesday   | 9:00 am to 5:00 pm |
|                   | Saturday  | 9:00 am to 5:00 pm |
| <b>Waskatenau</b> | Saturday  | 9:00 am to 5:00 pm |

## CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2020

**H.A. Kostash,  
Holy Family Catholic  
& Vilna Schools**

We know this isn't how you pictured celebrating this huge milestone. While the celebration may look different, the accomplishment is just as great.



**Smoky Lake County  
Reeve, Councillors and Staff**

**Wishing our farmers a safe seeding season.**

Please remember to slow down, and drive with caution while passing farm equipment.



**NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS WEEK**  
MAY 17-23, 2020



**Be Emergency Ready**

**Emergency Preparedness Week**

May 3-9, 2020

Canada

