



ROSS L. GRAY SCHOOL
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 Principal: Mr. Jared Baines
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May 2021

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

Spring has now seriously landed on our doorstep, so we decided that for this month's newsletter, we will focus on ways to celebrate this special season of renewed growth, energy, and life. Of course, as usual, we included items that pay attention to:

- Learning/Education
 - Physical Activity
Parenting Help
 - Public Health
- Enjoy!

Happy Sun!

Crafting doesn't need to be complicated... It can be simple and fun.

Let your child paint or colour the face of a happy sunshine, and then use their own little hand cutouts to add the rays!



Simple Snack

Give your children a sneak preview of summer...make some popsicles! You can use yoghurt, instant pudding, or real fruit juice.

Get Them Out There!

This generation's childhood is different from the last generation(s) in many ways. One of the biggest differences is that families spend much more time inside. Why? Many reasons, including more electronic device time and more structured activity.



Southeast Farmer's Market

Saturday, May 8, 2021
10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Pine Grove Seniors Center
South Junction, Manitoba

Special Ladies Day!
Ladies register for Gift Basket Draws

Covid19 Guidelines in place
Masks Required



For more information call

Jen - 423-2223
 Shawny - 437-2600

If you can't make it, bake it or grow it... You can buy it at the Farmer's Market!



BPPS Recycling & Waste Management

The BPPS Recycling and Waste Management Board is excited to update our residents that the first recyclables were transported to Epic Smile in St. Malo during the week of April 19th, 2021. This marks the start of a regional approach to recycling and waste management. BPPS welcomes our first new hire for the position of Equipment Operator and the valuable support he'll provide in ensuring the success of the project.

We ask our residents to remain patient as changes are implemented and complications are overcome. The new initiative still has many challenges ahead, but these first loads of recyclables marked a significant milestone for the new service. Continue to think about how to reduce and recycle.



Transit Plan – Report Summary

SERIES #3 – Opportunities & Challenges

For a more detailed report, visit our website:

<https://rmofpiney.mb.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Transit-Plan-Report-3-May-Newsletter.pdf>

OPPORTUNITIES: Not only are economics an important factor to evaluate transit options, but social considerations as well. Social factors include the ability to access services not available locally rather than being compelled to move elsewhere, to allow residents of all ages to live in a rural area and to age in place within their communities. A transit option will alleviate the need to drive and promote safety when you are no longer able to drive or confident to drive but have no other options. This promotes the RM as an inclusive community.

Social connectedness matters to our well being. Social isolation can occur where people may be alone and do not ask for help with their steadfast self reliance and have little social contact. With the COVID-19 pandemic stay home orders in the Spring and Fall of 2020, most people better understand social isolation and feelings of despair by being alone and not able to go places or see friends and family.

Transit options could allow employers to potentially tap into labour markets, public transportation may attract tourist, sharing rides could reduce air pollution.

CHALLENGES: The cost of providing a service in a large area with a sparse population will need to be balanced with affordable fares and sustainable operations as so many community van services are financially precarious. Fares for longer distances need multiple passengers consistently to keep costs down, although medical appointments are said to be difficult to schedule with ride shares and an accessible vehicle will need to consider how many mobility devices to accommodate.

Unless a service is outsourced, having local available drivers will be a key aspect. A driver could be a volunteer to keep costs down or a driver could be paid. With harsh winter driving conditions, drivers often being seniors themselves, do they feel confident driving a community vehicle in these conditions? The lack of sufficient cell and internet service does not support drivers with information on the road or assistance when required.

Connie Gamble

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office@rmofpiney.mb.ca



May 2021

MONTHLY REMINDERS

Weed Control Message

As spring is near, so is our annual spraying program for noxious weeds. We follow the MB noxious weed act to spray for unwanted weeds on the tier 1, 2, and 3 scale and we also need to balance the needs of our producers such as organic farming and Bee Hive operations. If you have a registered organic farm or bee operation, please contact us so we can update our maps to create buffer zones near those locations.

Gary Hora, Weed Control Board

Fire Pit Regulations

- Fire pits shall be fully enclosed & constructed of masonry, concrete, heavy gauge metal, or a non-combustible material;
- The outdoor fire pit shall not exceed 100cm in depth and shall be over 15cm in height when measured from the surrounding grade to the top of the pit opening. Fire pit openings shall not exceed 107cm in diameter or an area of 0.89 square meters;
- When in use, fire pits shall be continuously supervised by an adult;
- A means of extinguishment shall be readily available on site. Fires must be completely extinguished before leaving the site.



Proper use of ATV's

The RM of Piney is noticing a significant increase in the use of ATVs and UTV travel throughout our area. With this increased use, the RM is seeing a rise in the occurrence of infrastructure damage and public complaints. We ask that you respect all private or government owned property and roads. Please think about how you are operating your all-terrain vehicles and follow the laws which govern their use. While recreational activities are strongly promoted within our municipality, we only ask that you treat all property and others with kindness and respect while enjoying our beautiful region.

Road Weight Restrictions

65% weight restrictions of normal loading are still in place for the RM of Piney and will remain in effect until further notice.

RM Office Closed for Victoria Day



The RM office will be closed on Monday May 24th, 2021.



RM Private Well Water Testing Days 2021

The Seine Rat Roseau Watershed District will be assisting residents with private well water testing for the presence of *E. coli* & coliform bacteria. **The cost of private well water testing is \$22.31, including tax.** If you have experienced recent flooding, contact the SRRWD office for information on special discounts. Each legal location is eligible for one sample per well at the subsidized rate. Payment may be submitted by cash or cheque **ONLY**, with cheques made payable to **Horizon Lab Ltd.** Horizon Lab is offering a new expedited service. Customers can pay an extra \$10 to have their bacteria water test report sent by the next business day.

Water sample bottles & application forms can be picked up in advance at the RM office. Water samples must be taken on the same day as the drop-off. Drop your water sample off at the RM of Piney office **prior to 10:00 am**, along with your completed Chain of Custody and SRRWD Application forms.

Samples will only be accepted if accompanied by exact payment & completed forms. Please respect others & follow social distancing measures when dropping off samples.

Well Water Testing Days will take place on:
Thursday, May 20th, 2021
Thursday, June 17th, 2021

Please contact SRRWD at 204-326-1030 or 204-425-7877, by emailing roseau@srrwd.ca, or at: www.srrwd.ca

Vassar & Sandilands Dump Hours

Burnable Yard Waste Only!

Vassar and Sandilands waste disposal sites will be open from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM on the following days:

VASSAR: Saturday, May 1st, 2021
SANDILANDS: Sunday, May 2nd, 2021

These dumps will only be receiving yard waste such as trees, flax straw, grass, leaves, branches and natural debris.

Household garbage, recycling, or any non-burnable debris will not be accepted at these dump sites.



Economic Development Telling Your Business Story Online

So many small businesses in Sunrise Corner – makers, bakers, artisans, authors and tradespeople like carpenters, plumbers and electricians – are operated from home. If you're one of these entrepreneurs without a bricks-and-mortar storefront or huge advertising budget, how can you get the word out about your products or services? Hands-down, the best and most cost-effective way to reach your customers is with an active online presence through social media.

Here we break down a simple, step-by-step approach – the Five Ws & a H – to telling your business story online to connect with your customers and increase sales.

WHO: Share who you are and what motivates you to produce your product or provide your service. Customers love to buy from people they know by name and trust.

WHAT: Share the details of the products and services you are selling – the quality/craftsmanship, what makes them special, dimensions, colour options, whether they are customizable.

WHERE: Be clear about where your products are available. Will you deliver or offer shipping? Is there a fee for that service? Do you offer curbside pick-up and if so, where?

WHEN: Is there a time frame for a special promotion? Will you have a booth at a local farmer's market or craft fair? Don't forget to leverage any online marketing the farmer's markets are doing, like sharing their Facebook events and commenting with the products you'll have available.

WHY: Explain why people would want to buy from you. What challenge are you solving for your customer? Why will your product make their life better or easier?

HOW: Make it clear how customers can pay. Are you cash only, or do you offer debit, e-transfers, or credit card?

Whether you're an entrepreneur testing out a new product, a student working to pay college tuition, or a community group raising funds for a project, supporting local is a strong driver for a lot of residents in these challenging times. Telling the simple story of you and your business can be the catalyst to increase your sales and perhaps even make a full-time career out of your side gig or hobby.

If you want to discuss your existing business (or a new business idea) and brainstorm ideas on how to grow, give me a call and we can chat about where you are now and where you'd like to be in the future.

Monique Chenier
monique@sunrisecornermb.ca

Don't forget to enter our website scavenger hunt contest. It's easy to win a \$25 gift card to a Sunrise Corner business of your choice – visit www.sunrisecornermb.ca/invest & read the details in the Opportunity Shines blog.



PINEY REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Monthly Meeting
WHEN: MAY 13TH, 2021 @ 7PM
WHERE: VIRTUAL ZOOM MEETING

RM of Piney Office Assistant Summer Job Position

Applicants must be able to work in an office environment and be proficient with computers. This position is open to all young adults between 15-30 years of age. Qualified candidates are invited to submit a cover letter & resume stating experience, education, & references. Please submit your application by 4:30pm on May 14th, 2021 to martin@rmofpiney.mb.ca. Start date is anticipated for May 31st, 2021.



Council Meetings

Council meetings are opportunities to observe council in action. They are a forum for Council to discuss, debate, and vote on resolutions and by-laws.

Regular Meetings: These meetings are open to the public so citizens can hear Council's debate and/or can appear as a delegate. Resolutions can only be passed in regular meetings.

Special Meetings: The Reeve may call a special meeting if they receive a written request from at least two Council members. These meetings are open to the public, and can have resolutions passed at this time.

Committee of the Whole: COTW meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month. These meetings are open to the public, but no resolutions or motions can be passed. All motions/resolutions will be forwarded to a regular meeting.

Agendas: The agenda is prepared by the CAO, and is made available several days before the meeting.

Minutes: Minutes are the official record of the Council's meeting and are made public within five working days of the meeting. Minutes are posted in office and on our website.

Voting: All council members, including the Head of Council, have one vote.

Delegations: A delegate is a member of the public who presents an issue to council. If you want to be a delegate, you must register in writing within a week before the meeting. You must outline the intent and purpose of your presentation, and provide an outline of your presentation at the meeting.

Regular meetings of Council are held on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month. For access to meeting agendas and minutes, please visit our website: www.rmofpiney.mb.ca

Stay tuned for the next article about "Municipal Elections".

Sources: "2018 Council Member's Guide" AMM/"By-Law 129/2018" RM of Piney

RM of Piney Trails Plan Update

We are continuing to gather data from RM of Piney residents and stakeholders via a public survey that will help create of RM of Piney Trails Plan. The Trails Plan will shape and guide how, where, and when non-motorized trails will be constructed in the RM of Piney. This an important opportunity to provide your thoughts and ideas for trail construction. If you have not filled out a survey, please do so by May 14th either online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GFKF5XZ> or paper copies are available at Carl & Kay's, Woodridge Store, or South Junction Co-op. If you would like to get involved in the process please contact Allison Driedger, Bluestem Development @ bluestemdevelopment@gmail.com. All participation welcome!

PROTECTIVE SERVICES



Sprague RCMP

With weather starting to warm up, more people are outdoors and looking for places to walk with their families, or pets. Sprague RCMP are reminding the public that the railway tracks are not a safe option! We've received several reports in the last month of people either walking on, or along the tracks. According to the Transportation Safety Board of Canada, 57 people were killed, and 31 people were seriously injured as a result of trespassing, or crossing railway tracks unsafely in 2020. Not only is it unsafe, it's illegal and you could be subject to fines. Contrary to popular belief... the Police don't work on commission! We don't want to hand out more fines than we have to! Trains move faster than they seem, and it takes only a moment of distraction to lead to tragedy. Parents talk to your kids, and set the example for them. Please stay off the tracks. We want everyone to stay safe this summer.

With the Province currently under Code Red restrictions, Sprague RCMP Detachment is currently closed for walk up service. If you are an essential worker, you can still get criminal record checks completed. Please contact our office at (204) 437-2041 to get further details. Should you require immediate Police assistance, call (204) 437-2222 or 911.

Richard Graham Cpl.
NCO i/c Sprague Detachment

slam the scam!



THE CANADA REVENUE AGENCY WILL:

- NEVER use aggressive language or tone
- NEVER threaten to arrest or deport you
- NEVER ask for prepaid credit cards or gift cards

For more information, go to canada.ca/taxes-fraud-prevention



RM of Piney Fire Departments

The seasons are changing rapidly and some of the challenges we face also change. In the past few months, I've had the opportunity to review our fire response history and serious events that have had a considerable impact on our communities. How our Fire Department react to these events is critical. Understanding who we could be working with should a severe event happen is very important. I had the pleasure of meeting and conversing with a number of groups. Particularly, the caring and dedicated people of Badger and Woodridge who have spent countless hours organizing PEAT (Piney Evacuation Assistance Team) in those communities. I urge everyone in those areas, even newcomers to touch base with these organizations so they know who you are. These volunteers want to help when our region experiences its greatest time of need. For Badger area, contact badgercommunityassociation@gmail.com and for Woodridge, siletkean@hotmail.com. If there are groups in other communities that are already or could be working together to facilitate faster and more efficient communication during an event, we would much appreciate hearing from you.

Reminder: Our emergency responders are here for you despite the growing risks. Please do everything you can to reduce or eliminate the need for these dedicated men and women to put themselves potentially at risk.

Bill Stowe
billstowe@rmofpiney.mb.ca



Municipal Emergency Coordinator

Spring is upon us and it's been a bit of a dry start. I never thought I would wish for snow in April! As Emergency Coordinator for the RM of Piney, it is my duty to imagine the worst and how best we can react to it and plan for it. No matter how the RM reacts, we cannot approach the value of the Woodridge and Badger PEAT groups and the efforts they provide to their communities. The PEAT members are part of the community that they are working to safeguard. Their specific knowledge of the local residents and resources makes them one of the most valuable assets available during an event. I would love to see to the PEAT group model duplicated in other villages within the RM of Piney. This valuable community initiative can be easily implemented and supported by the RM.

Please feel free to contact the community groups listed above and perhaps a new PEAT group can emerge to enhance another village in our community. I hope to see new volunteer groups in the coming months. I remind you all to please remember the 72 hour rule of preparedness by visiting www.getprepared.gc.ca for more details.

Richard Gamble
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