

Woodridge Community Club
"DRIVE THRU"
FALL SUPPER

Saturday, September 18, 2021
4:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
 Woodridge Community Centre
 69 Denis Street Woodridge, MB

\$15 per Takeout Container (cash only)

MENU
 2 pieces of Chicken, Meatballs in Gravy,
 Potato Casserole, Seasonal Vegetable, Coleslaw
 and Dessert
400 takeout meals guaranteed

PINEY COMMUNITY CENTRE
YARD SALE

Sat Sept 25th 12 noon to 8 pm
Festival Grounds

HAVE SOMETHING TO SELL?

Book a Spot for \$10
 Contact Wally at (431)205-1248 or gushulakw@live.com or
 Nancy at (204)408-0874 or brownnc@live.ca

HOUSEHOLD ITEMS, TOOLS, FURNITURE, TOYS, CRAFTS,
 BAKING AND MORE

BEER GARDENS* FOOD* REFRESHMENTS

*Come visit with friends and see our new
 Children's Playground*

 **Southeast
 Farmer's Market**

Friday's - July 9 to Sept 3
3:00 - 8:00 pm

Pine Grove Seniors Center
South Junction, Manitoba

Rain or Shine
 There will be no Canteen
 on site this year.
 Current Covid Guidelines
 will be followed at
 each market.



RM of Piney Transit Pilot


Demonstrate your support of transit in the RM of Piney, and get some shopping done, by booking a door-to-door shopping trip for September 15th to Steinbach Clearspring Mall.

Strong community support will influence the application of a federal grant. Infrastructure Canada has launched the Rural Transit Solutions Fund for planning and capital projects. If you have any questions/comments about the RM of Piney Transit Options Project, email Connie at CGPiney@gmail.com.

The trip to Steinbach on Wednesday, September 15th will use the Vita Handi Transit, which can accommodate mobility devices including wheelchairs. Booking deadline is September 13th at a subsidized cost of \$30; \$20 from Woodridge/Sandilands area.

Current health directives must be followed including:

- Stay home if you are sick
- All passengers and drivers must wear a non-medical mask during the ride
- Passengers are expected to handle their own bags/items
- More detailed information will be sent to you after booking including Provincial Health guidelines on transportation <https://www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/restoring/transportation.html>



Depending on demand, priority may be given to those 60 years & better and those in need (unable to or do not drive).

TO BOOK A RIDE - Call Mel Parent 204-437-2604 and provide:

- Your name, address, phone number, email (detailed info), emergency contact information
- Whether lift is required (wheelchair/unable to use stairs)
- Identify estimated time to shop to allow a schedule for passengers shopping preferences.
 - Trips may be cancelled due to lack of sufficient bookings or COVID19 health directives.
 - Trip is expected to leave approximately 9am and return by 2pm subject to passenger requests.

If you are unable to go shopping after booking a ride, cancel ASAP, as others may be on a wait list.

Connie Gamble

Phone No.:
 204-437-2284 or
 204-437-2060
 Fax No.:
 204-437-2556
office@rmofpiney.mb.ca

 **Rural Municipality of
 PINEY**



September 2021

MONTHLY REMINDERS

The RM Office will be closed on the 6th & 30th of September for Labour Day and National Day for Truth & Reconciliation

TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

Sprague Garbage Dump Closed on Thursday, September 30th

The Sprague Garbage Dump will be closed on Thursday, September 30th for National Day for Truth & Reconciliation.

The dump will re-open on Friday, October 1st, 2021.

Board of Revision Reminder

If you have requested to appeal your 2022 assessment at the Board of Revision, the meeting will take place on September 21st, 2021 at 10:00am in the Council Chambers.

Community Club Reminder

All applications for Recreation Grants must be received by the RM of Piney by September 30th, 2021.

RM of Piney Burn Ban

The RM would like to remind everyone that when burn bans are put in place by either the RM of Piney or Manitoba Conservation & Climate, the more restrictive of the two is to be followed. Currently, the RM of Piney has an open fire ban in place. All recreational fires in approved fire pits are permitted at this time.





Non-Motorized Trail Plan Update

The RM of Piney is currently drafting the non-motorized trail plan. We are in the community engagement phase of the process. This phase seeks to gather resident and stakeholder input and involvement to help identify trail locations, priorities and features. The plan that is created will reflect the input that is gathered and will guide how, where, and when non-motorized trails are constructed. A 2nd virtual open house was held Wednesday, August 4th. This virtual open house reviewed the information gathered to date, sought additional input into the trail locations and prioritized trail development for each community. A summary of the survey information as well as the consultation materials including maps of trail locations is available on the RM website or by contacting Allison Driedger @ bluestemdevelopment@gmail.com.

Any comments and input on the materials to date is welcomed and appreciated. We are hopeful that we will be able to have in-person consultation in the fall provided restrictions permit. These sessions would allow us to gather and discuss trail location and priorities in person. We look forward to hearing your thoughts and ideas.



How can I get involved?

If you would like to be involved in the process or want more information please contact Allison Driedger @ bluestemdevelopment@gmail.com

Economic Development

Small Business Exit Strategy – Part 1

All business owners should have an exit strategy, a plan for the owner to exit their business while the business continues to operate for the benefit of employees, customers, suppliers and the community.

First step? Valuation. Many entrepreneurs don't know the value of their business. All too often, when it's time to retire (either planned or not) they just close the doors. It's not ideal for the owner to walk away with little more than assets to sell. It's unfortunate for their customers and the community who lose a thriving business they counted on. The impact on employees is devastating.

So, how do you figure out the value of your business? At its most basic level, business value equals assets minus liabilities. Your business assets include anything with a cash value, such as real estate, equipment or inventory. Liabilities include business debts, like a mortgage or bank loan to purchase equipment.

Business value can be increased by a number of other factors: productive workforce; strong established supplier relationships; high percentage of repeat sales and customers; no current lawsuits or tax complications; documented systems and processes for efficient business operations; established branding; and, potential for business growth or expansion.

Keep in mind that the opposite of any of these factors could result in a lower value. For example, an outstanding dispute with an employee, supplier or Canada Revenue Agency, could result in a decreased valuation. Worse, it could send an interested buyer running in the other direction.

Start by taking an objective look at your business and figure out how to improve any factors that could bring down the valuation. So, for example, if you currently use a shoebox for your accounting system, consider hiring a bookkeeper to set up an accounting program for easy financial management. Or if you're using your company Facebook page as a personal sounding board, now is the time to create a separate account so your business can build a strong relationship with customers. Taking these steps now will deliver the most benefit possible when it's time to exit your business, increasing the value.

Next month, we're going to discuss options for exiting your business – whether it's a succession plan that sees you transitioning out slowly or a cold-turkey departure. Until then, if you'd like to discuss any aspect of your business, my door is open (within all current public health guidelines, of course).

Monique Chenier
monique@sunrisecornermb.ca



MEETING NOTICE:

LGD of Piney Community Resource Council AGM

Wednesday, September 15th at 1pm
at the Piney Seniors Club in Piney

Call 204-437-2604 if attending



Assessment & Taxation

Council tries to balance the cost of services with a fair tax rate.

The **mill rate** is the ratio that has to be paid for every \$1000 of taxable assessment. Mill rate is developed based on the services Council wants to provide & their cost. These expenses are spread across the total assessed value of the RM.

Assessment is the estimated market value of a property. MB Assessment Services provides the market value of each property in the municipality every two years. The RM can only tax a portion of the property's market value. Different land uses result in different portioning. The equation for how property taxes are determined is: **Mill Rate x Assessed Value / 1000**.

Education tax is deemed an uncontrollable tax by the RM because it is established by the Public Schools Finance board and school divisions respectively. The RM is responsible for collecting property taxes, charging penalties, and putting properties onto tax sale for back taxes.

Sources: *Municipal Procedures Manual* and *Council Member's Guide* "Assessment Fact Sheets" Government of Manitoba www.manitoba.ca

Citizen Engagement

Citizen engagement is paramount to how Council makes its decisions. Your experiences and input help guide decision-making. Several ways a ratepayer can have input is by:

Public Hearings: Public hearings are formal events, initiated by council or by an application from a citizen, held to gain public input on a matter of significant impact to the municipality. Public hearings are a way for Council to gain valuable feedback from the public on a new proposal before making the final decision.

Open Houses: Open houses and events such as Coffee with Council are informal meet-and-greets designed to engage with the public and gain new insights for improving the municipality. Citizens have the right to be informed about the municipality's policies, by-laws, programs and services.

Access to Information: Policies, by-laws, meeting minutes, and information on services are made available to ratepayers via the RM of Piney website www.rmofpiney.mb.ca. The RM keeps the personal identification of rate payers confidential.

Citizen complaints: If you have a comment or concern you would like Council to be made aware of, there are several options. 1) Put your concerns in writing and send them to the RM office, 2) request to be a delegate and take your concerns to a Council meeting, or 3) attend a public hearing or open house to make your position known. Citizen comments and concerns are reviewed in an unbiased manner, with the greater good of the municipality in mind.

Stay tuned for next month's article on "Community Planning".

PROTECTIVE SERVICES



Sprague RCMP

One of the most common questions I get from the public, is "How do we get a hold of you guys if I don't want to call 911?!" We have a Non Emergency phone number you can call, and each member of the Sprague Detachment has a Voicemail Extension number! The Sprague RCMP Non Emergency number is (204) 437-2041. Below are the various extension numbers for the members currently stationed in Sprague:

Cpl. Richard Graham – Ext # 102

Cst. Fahd El Aste – Ext # 103

S/Cst. Gabriel Bunn – Ext # 105

Cst. Fred Lillie (Buffalo Point) – Ext # 104

Now that you have this information, you can call and speak to the member who is investigating your complaint if necessary! Please do not use this list to "Shop" for the Police Officer you want to deal with. Understand... we get days off, and just like you we don't check our work voicemails when we are off duty! What I always tell people is that if you want to see an officer today, call our emergency number at (204) 437-2222, or 911. The officer on duty will be happy to assist you. If you can wait a few days to hear back, call our Non Emergency number and leave a message. Hope this helps, and hope you all enjoy the last bit of summer!

Richard Graham Cpl.
NCO i/c Sprague Detachment



Municipal Emergency Coordinator

We finally got a break from the heat and lack of rain. The RM of Piney has lifted the complete burn ban and will allow recreational fires in approved fire pits. There is still a ban in place on open fires. We have had some precipitation but the concern regarding wildfires remains. The RM asks that you use caution when utilizing recreational fires and backcountry travel during this time.

Fall is a wonderful season to be in the RM of Piney. We hope that in the coming weeks things will normalize and allow for burning and safer backcountry travel for all. In the meantime, enjoy the beautiful fall weather!

Canada is a world leader in vaccination rates of its citizens. To find out when you can be vaccinated, please visit the Manitoba Government website for detailed and up-to-date info: <https://www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/vaccine/index.html>

Richard Gamble
Municipal Emergency Coordinator



RM of Piney Fire Departments

September already! Fall is around the corner and the seasons are starting to change. Also changing are the activities associated with this time of year. The risks and challenges change accordingly.

School starts in September and so do the school buses. Busses will be on the road twice a day. Please be aware of school bus warning lights and children moving around the bus at stops.

Fall is the time for harvest. There are all kinds of harvest, from digging your potatoes to combining wheat and chopping corn. With the operation of equipment comes the risk of farm accidents. Special care needs to be taken when preparing food for storage from the garden. Should we mention cutting your winter supply of firewood? Isn't there an old saying that firewood warms you twice? Once when you cut it and once when you burn it. Always wear safety equipment while operating chainsaw equipment in the woods and in the yard. Safety is always important.

Hunting seasons are opening up. There is always a chance of becoming disoriented in the bush especially with cloudy days and weather changes. Unfamiliar with the surroundings, the location of buildings and others is a recipe for disaster. Be aware of your surrounds, it is your responsibility as a hunter when discharging a firearm to keep everyone safe.

Is anyone still in the practice of piling straw bales around your house or mobile home to keep the floors warmer in winter? I'm sure I've seen firewood stacked against the house and on a porch for easy access too. Let's not increase the fire risk or add fuel to it. It's tempting to start that first fire of the year in the old wood stove and take the chill and dampness out of the house. When was the last time you cleaned your chimney? It's a lot easier now when there's no snow on the roof.

It is important to understand the risks which accompany our everyday activities. Injuries are preventable and planning ahead with safety in mind keeps everyone safe.

As always, I'm happy to hear from you. I can be reached at billstowe@rmofpiney.mb.ca.

Bill Stowe
Municipal Fire Chief



**Federal Elections will be held
on September 20th**

Please visit www.elections.ca or call
1-800-463-6868 for more information.