

Phone: 204-437-2284
office@rmofpiney.mb.ca
Hours: Monday – Friday
8:30am – 12:00pm
12:45pm – 4:30pm



Need to Contact your Councillor?

Wayne Anderson: 204-527-0569
Ken Prociw: 204-429-2143
Dale Edbom: 204-423-2089
David Beaudry: 204-437-2528
Mark Bernard: 431-997-5077

January 2026

MONTHLY REMINDERS

Council Meetings

Regular council meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of every month and Committee of the Whole meetings, where resolutions are not passed, are held on the 1st Wednesday of every month. All meetings commence at 10am and are held in the Council Chambers in Vassar.

If you are wanting to attend a meeting to speak with council, you must put your request in writing one week before meeting to attend as a delegate. Please include who will be attending and what topic will be discussed. Delegation requests can be emailed to: office@rmofpiney.mb.ca.

2024/2025 Overdue Taxes

Tax Sale Processing Deadline: Tuesday, March 31st

If you missed the tax deadline of October 31st, 2025, and have 2024 taxes still owing, your property will incur tax sale costs if not paid by March 31st, 2026.

For all rate payers who have 2024 and 2025 taxes owing, a letter will be issued to you later this month stating what you owe for 2024, including arrears and penalties. This amount is due by **Tuesday, March 31st, 2026**. The letter will not state the amount due for 2025 taxes since only 2024 needs to be paid in order for the property to not incur additional tax sale costs. Come April 1st, tax sale costs will be added to your property as well as monthly penalties.

Community Grant Submissions Due

Grant submissions made by an eligible community organization for 2026, must be submitted to the RM by **February 15th, 2026**. For more information on what grants are available and for submission forms, please visit our website under Recreation Policies or call the RM office.

Piney Weed / Building District

2025 was another strong year for building permits. We saw our fourth busiest year to date with 63 permits being pulled for 2025. This 55% increase over our normal averages for Piney building permits, shows that each year our RM is continuously growing. Building permits are required for:

- Construction of any building/structure over 108 sq ft;
- Any building (house, shed, etc) being moved into the RM;
- Attached and/or detached garages and/or carports;
- Decks 24" above grade and/or located in the front yard;
- Temporary buildings (incl. temporarily (re)located);
- Demolition of whole or part of a building;
- Renovations projects that affect the structural integrity of a building and proper venting of plumbing.

The 2025 roadside spray program for noxious weeds had it's challenges this year. Our mild winter quickly turned into a very dry spring, before finally getting a normal summer. This did see an effect on the growing season and our crew had to adjust accordingly. The "new" Tier 1 weed in our RM called Red Bartsia was discovered in 2023 is very hard to control and effects lawns, pasture/grazing lands, effecting our cattle producers and hay lands. The weed is mostly located in and around the town of Piney with a few spots in South Junction and Badger. If you see this weed on your property, please try to contain it to a small spot to help prevent further spread of the seeds.

Gary Hora
RM of Piney



One-Time Recovery Benefit Available for Wildfire Evacuees

A message from the Province of Manitoba

On December 2nd, the Manitoba Government issued a media release announcing that the Manitoba government will match the Canadian Red Cross donations to support wildfire evacuees and affected businesses.

All evacuated Manitobans are eligible for a one-time recovery benefit funded through donations made to the Canadian Red Cross during the summer wildfires. Registered evacuees who previously received emergency financial assistance will be eligible for recovery support of \$120 per adult & \$65 per child.

Please visit: <https://www.redcross.ca/2025manitobawildfires>

Happy
New Year
2026

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Winter Adventures in Sunrise Corner: A Fresh Take on New Year's Resolutions

As we welcome a new year, many of us feel inspired to set intentions that bring more joy, health, and connection into our lives. One of the easiest—and most enjoyable—ways to turn resolutions into reality is by embracing the winter magic right here in Sunrise Corner. With our mix of peaceful forests, rolling sandhills, tall-grass prairies, and friendly communities, winter offers countless opportunities to refresh your routine and explore something new.

If your goal is to be more active this year, our region offers endless ways to get moving outdoors. Cross-country skiing and snowshoeing provide a quiet, low-impact workout along scenic trails that wind through forests and fields. Prefer a bit more adrenaline? Sunrise Corner is known for exceptional groomed motorized trails that take riders through some of Manitoba's most unique landscapes. Whether you're stepping into skis for the first time or revving up the snowmobile for a day trip, there's an adventure waiting for every skill level.

Maybe your resolution leans more toward slowing down, being present, or spending quality time with loved ones. Winter hiking, birdwatching, and photography offer gentle ways to enjoy the stillness of the season. Our region's natural beauty shines in winter—the frosted tall-grass prairie, the quiet forest paths, and the wildlife that remains active even in the cold. These peaceful experiences make it easy to stay grounded and recharge.

If your goal is to connect more with your community, Sunrise Corner's winter events are the perfect place to start. From local craft markets to community hall gatherings, these events bring neighbours together and remind us how vibrant rural life can be. And if you're looking for a new way to give back, volunteering is a meaningful and fun resolution—local events, museums, and clubs are always grateful for an extra set of hands.

For those focusing on healthier habits or more mindful spending, winter is a great time to explore local businesses. If you're stocking up on cozy handmade goods, enjoying a warm meal at a favourite restaurant, or discovering a service you didn't realize was available nearby, supporting local entrepreneurs strengthens our regional economy and keeps your dollars close to home.

Whatever your resolutions may be, Sunrise Corner offers a natural and community-driven backdrop to help you succeed. So bundle up, step outside, and let winter inspire you. This season—and this year—hold endless potential.

Monique Chenier

monique@sunrisecornermb.ca



PROTECTIVE SERVICES

Sprague RCMP

Fraud and scams continue to affect seniors & residents of rural Manitoba including the RM of Piney. The Sprague RCMP have seen an increase this past year in numerous types of scams. Scammers often target people they believe may be more trusting, live alone, or have limited access to in-person services. We regularly hear from victims who never expected to be scammed, and who are often embarrassed to report it. No one should feel ashamed. These scams are designed to deceive.

One of the most common scams involves phone calls claiming to be from the RCMP, Canada Revenue Agency, banks, or utility companies. Callers may threaten arrest, demand immediate payment, or say a loved one is in trouble and needs money right away. Police and government agencies do not demand payment over the phone and will never ask for gift cards, cryptocurrency, or wire transfers.

There has also been an increase in online marketplace and equipment-related scams. This can include fake farm equipment listings, rental scams, or requests for deposits on vehicles, trailers, or property that do not exist. Scammers often use stolen photos and pressure buyers to act quickly.

Romance scams continue to cause serious financial loss, particularly among seniors. Scammers may spend weeks or months building trust through phone calls, emails, or social media before asking for money. These requests often involve emergencies, investments, or travel costs. Once money is sent, it is very difficult to recover.

The best defense against fraud is to slow down and verify. Do not act on urgent requests for money or personal info. Hang up the phone, do not click on suspicious links, and contact a trusted family member, friend, bank, or the Sprague RCMP detachment to confirm the situation. If something feels wrong, it usually is.

We encourage seniors and rural residents to report scams, even if no money was lost. Reporting helps police identify trends and warn others in the community. Talking openly about scams with family members, neighbours, and friends is one of the most effective ways to prevent victimization.

Staying informed and taking time to verify requests can help protect you and your community from fraud. For all non-emergency matters, please contact the Sprague RCMP Detachment at (204) 437-2041. Until further notice, we will not be completing Criminal Record Checks. Please contact the Steinbach RCMP or your closest RCMP detachment to have them completed. Should you require immediate Police assistance you can call (204) 437-2222 or 911 in the case of an emergency.



Cpl. Kevin Reimer
Sprague RCMP



Transportation for Cancer-Related Appointments

Southeast Cancer Support, BPP Rent & Ride, and the RM of Piney are working together to support those who need transportation to get to any cancer-related appointments. The cost for each door-to-door, round trip service for clients is \$10.00.

Volunteer driver recruitment is needed in many southeast communities to transport clients to and from their medical appointments in the BPP van or their own vehicle. Whether you need a ride or are interested in becoming a volunteer driver in your community, please contact 204-846-HOPE or info@secancersupport.ca.



Meeting Invitation

Join our Annual General Meeting & Potluck. This celebration of progress is our best attended event of the year and a great opportunity to meet local business owners and community leaders. Please RSVP hello@pineyregionalchamber.ca.

15 January 2026

6:00-9:00 PM

RM of Piney Office, Vassar, MB



More Information
www.pineyregionalchamber.ca



Dear Chamber Members and Friends,

One reason our region is an incredible place to live is because of the amazing businesses that choose to call it home. From small startups to long-established companies, each of you contributes something valuable by creating jobs, inspiring innovation, and keeping our local economy strong. Simply put, you are the reason our area continues to stay strong and succeed.

While every business makes an impact on its own, the real progress happens when we work together. When businesses share ideas, support one another, and collaborate, we build something much greater than any of us could achieve alone. That spirit of partnership has always been the Piney Regional Chamber of Commerce's greatest strength, and it remains a priority we are committed to fostering.

That's where the Chamber meetings come in. We strive to bring people together through networking, learning opportunities, and events that spark new ideas. We are here to champion your needs, celebrate your successes, and offer the tools and support that help your business continue to grow.

Looking ahead, we see tremendous potential. By lifting one another up and sharing our strengths, we can ensure that our region not only grows but thrives in a way that benefits everyone. We want this to be a place where new businesses feel welcomed, where established businesses keep discovering new ways to succeed and where families find opportunity and stability for the long term.

To our members I want to say thank. Your dedication, hard work, and willingness to be part of this community are what make our progress possible. Every time you show up to a meeting, offer insight, or extend a hand to another business, you help build something stronger.

As we move forward, let's keep that spirit of cooperation and support alive. Together, we can continue creating a region where businesses do more than simply operate but truly prosper. And when our businesses thrive, our entire community benefits.

To the businesses in our region that are not yet Chamber members, we invite you to join us. Whether you are just getting started, expanding, or deeply rooted in the community, there is a place for you here. Membership opens the door to valuable resources, meaningful relationships, and a network of peers committed to growing a vibrant, successful region. We would be honored to support your goals and work alongside you.

Thank you for being an essential part of what makes our region strong and vibrant. As we enter this holiday season, on behalf of the Piney Regional Chamber of Commerce, we wish you a peaceful, safe and Merry Christmas with family and friends & a Happy New Year.

John Prevost, President
Piney Regional Chamber of Commerce
president@pineyregionalchamber.ca

YOU'LL NEED MORE THAN THE RIGHT SHOE SIZE TO FILL THESE BOOTS!



It takes a special person to fill the boots of a Volunteer Fire Fighter.

Someone with a desire to do something important for the community.

Someone with courage and dedication, who isn't afraid of hard work, and is willing to accept the challenge of a difficult job.

It takes a person who considers respect and appreciation reward enough, and who is glad to help.

If you're this kind of person, you're needed as a Volunteer Fire Fighter.

Contact your local Fire Department.

We might be able to fit you with a pair of boots!

Applications available at the RM office.

Contact your local District Chief for more information:

Piney Fire Department:
Harold Grawberger - 204-380-3742

Sprague Fire Department:
Bill Ross - 204-437-2589/204-371-0847

Woodridge Fire Department:
Joel Grenier - 204-392-5679

*Call the RM office for more information;
volunteer fire fighters are always needed!*

UPCOMING *Events*



Stay & Play

Tuesdays from 9:30am – 11:30am

January 20th – March 17th

Ross L. Gray School Library

(Families with kids 5 & under; Caregivers must attend)

Southeast Farmer's Market

Market Days – 10am to 2pm one Saturday Monthly

2026 dates will be posted soon

Pine Grove Seniors in South Junction

Exercises at Vassar Hall

Monday-Friday 9-9:30am Weights/6:30-7pm Cardio

Cost is \$20.00 from September-June or \$2.00/visit

Vassar Community Recreation Centre

"Meet Your Neighbours" – Coffee Groups

Mondays - 1pm – Pine Grove Seniors in S.J.

Thursdays - 1pm – Evergreen Seniors in Sprague

Piney Indoor Activities

Mon: Cornhole 6:30pm / Tues: Curling 6:30pm /

Wed: Pickleball 1pm & 7pm / Thurs: Archery 7pm

Piney Community Centre

Woodridge Wellness Wednesdays

Every Wednesday from 1:00-4:00pm

Moms & Tots

Thursdays from 10am to 2pm

Woodridge Community Hall

Sprague & Area Arena

NOW OPEN:

Monday-Fridays from 4:00-7:00pm

Saturdays-Sundays from noon-9:00pm

For more info, visit their Facebook Page: *Sprague & Area Arena*



A special event is being planned for those who have moved to the RM of Piney in the last couple of years – a "newcomer event".

Mark your calendars for **February 21st in St Labre** to learn about local services and our communities while enjoying delicious food and great conversation with other local residents! More details in the next Newsletter.

Personal invitations go a long way in making people feel welcome, so let's spread the word and show our friendly community spirit!