

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

July 2026

MONTHLY REMINDERS

Municipal Election Candidates

Candidate registration will be received:

For head of council: May 1st to September 22nd, 2026

For councillor: June 30th to September 22nd, 2026

For more inquiries, contact the SEO, Martin Van Osch.



Woodridge Transfer Station & RM Office Closed for Canada Day

The Woodridge Transfer Station as well as the RM Office will be closed on Wednesday, July 1st and will re-open to the public on Thursday, July 2nd.

Council Meeting Changes

Committee of the Whole meeting scheduled for July 1st has been moved to July 2nd, 2026.

The following Regular meetings have been cancelled:

Tuesday, July 28th & Tuesday, August 25th, 2026.

Misuse of Sprague Recycling Bins

It has been brought to our attention that the recycling bins located in Sprague are not being used for their intended purpose. All our recycling bins are for recycled items only. When garbage is dumped in these bins, the entire bin must go into household garbage.

Only Recycling is to be placed in all recycling bins.



RM of Piney Tax Due Date

Friday, October 23rd, 2026

The RM of Piney has moved the property tax deadline from October 31st to October 23rd, 2026. This adjustment is designed to help residents avoid the interest payments that result when accounts go into arrears.

RM of Piney Approves 2026 Financial Plan with Stable Mill Rate

The Rural Municipality of Piney has approved its 2026 Financial Plan, with Council making the decision to maintain the municipal mill rate at 12.09, unchanged from 2025. Holding the mill rate steady reflects Council's commitment to balancing the needs of the municipality while being mindful of the financial pressures facing residents. By keeping the rate consistent, the RM aims to provide predictability and stability for ratepayers heading into the 2026 taxation year.

The 2026 Financial Plan outlines approximately \$3.7 million in total municipal expenses, supported by a combination of taxation and other revenue sources. Property taxation continues to play a significant role, accounting for roughly 48% of municipal revenue, with the remaining funds coming from grants, fees, and other sources. Municipal taxes represent about 45% of the total property tax bill, while the remaining 55% is allocated to school taxes set by the province and local school divisions.

Council's budget continues to focus on maintaining essential services that residents rely on every day. Major areas of investment in 2026 include:

- Transportation Services (30%) – the largest portion of the budget, supporting road maintenance, snow removal, drainage, and infrastructure improvements
- General Government (19%) – covering administration, staffing, and municipal operations
- Protective Services (9%) – including fire protection, policing, and emergency response
- Environmental Health (7%) – garbage collection, recycling, and lagoon operations

Additional funding is directed toward recreation, economic development, and community services that support quality of life throughout the municipality.

Throughout the budgeting process, Council considered community priorities, service levels, and long-term financial planning to guide its decisions. By holding the mill rate steady while continuing to invest in core services and infrastructure, the RM of Piney is working to strike a balance between fiscal responsibility and maintaining service levels. Council appreciates the input and engagement from residents and remains committed to transparent and responsible financial management.

Residents with questions about the 2026 Financial Plan are encouraged to contact the RM office for more information.

PROTECTIVE SERVICES



Sprague RCMP

Summer has arrived in the RM of Piney, bringing longer days, increased travel, and plenty of opportunities to enjoy our lakes, trails, campgrounds, and communities. Whether you're heading to Buffalo Point, spending time at the cottage, or travelling our local highways and back roads, July is an excellent time to enjoy everything our region has to offer. With more people out and about during the summer months, the Sprague RCMP would like to share a few reminders to help keep our communities safe.

This month is one of the busiest months for travel, camping, boating, ATV riding, and family gatherings. With increased traffic on our highways, gravel roads, and recreational trails, we encourage everyone to plan ahead and make responsible decisions. Never drive while impaired by alcohol or drugs, always wear your seatbelt, and ensure children are properly secured in appropriate car seats.

For those enjoying off-road vehicles and ATV's, remember that helmets save lives. Operate vehicles responsibly, stay on designated trails where applicable, and ensure young riders are properly supervised.

Residents are also reminded to remain vigilant regarding seasonal scams. Fraudsters often take advantage of busy summer schedules through online marketplace scams, phishing emails, and phone calls claiming to be from government agencies. If something seems suspicious, take a moment to verify before sending money or personal information.

Finally, July often brings hot, dry conditions that can increase the risk of grass and forest fires. Please follow all local fire restrictions, extinguish campfires completely, and report any signs of wildfire immediately.

The RM of Piney is a great place to live, work, and enjoy the outdoors. By taking a few simple precautions, we can all help ensure a safe and enjoyable summer for everyone.

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



RM of Piney Fire Service

Wildfire Training – Session 2

As wildfire risk continues to rise across Manitoba, strengthening our regional response capacity remains a top priority. Ongoing training ensures that our fire fighters—both seasoned members and new recruits—are equipped with the skills, knowledge, and confidence needed to protect our communities when conditions become challenging. The BPP Wildfire Preparedness Training Project continues to play a vital role in building that readiness in the RM of Piney and Buffalo Point First Nation.

Session 2 of the Type 3 Wildland Fire Fighter Training took place April 24th – 26th at the Woodridge Fire Hall. This second delivery of training by the Manitoba Wildfire Service brought together fire fighters from all four departments within the RM of Piney and Buffalo Point First Nation, along with participation from our Mutual Aid District, further strengthening inter-departmental coordination and shared response capacity.

The curriculum mirrored the first session, ensuring consistent instruction across departments. Participants received hands-on training in wildland fire behaviour, pump and hose operations, fire-line construction, and essential safety procedures. By offering the same course a second time, the project ensured broader access to standardized training, strengthening the overall capacity and cohesion of our regional wildfire-response network.

Expanding participation through multiple training sessions helps ensure that more fire fighters across our region are prepared, confident, and ready to respond when wildfires threaten homes, infrastructure, and natural landscapes.



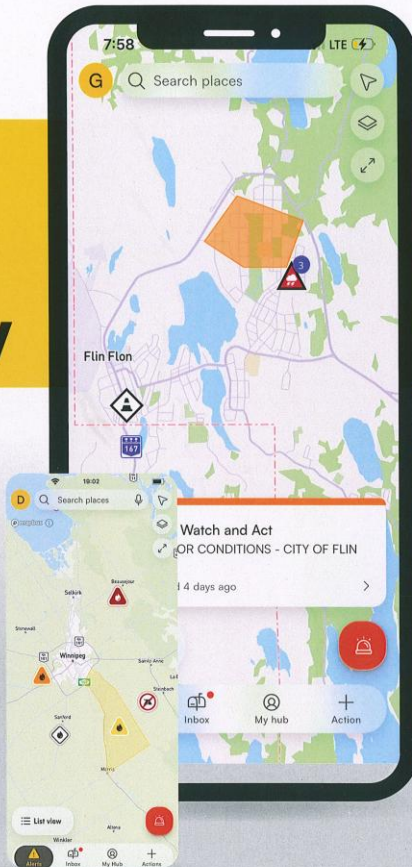
**MB
READY**

Be Informed Be Prepared Be MB Ready

MB Ready provides real-time, location-based emergency alerts for severe weather, wildfires, floods and other hazards, helping Manitobans stay informed and take action to stay safe.



Download MB Ready and set up your geofence alerts today.



Short-Term Rentals in the RM of Piney

Short-term rentals are an increasingly popular small business opportunity within the Rural Municipality of Piney. These ventures not only support local tourism but also contribute to economic growth by generating income, attracting visitors, & enhancing community vitality. Before establishing a short-term rental, property owners must follow the requirements set out in the RM's Zoning By-Law.

Under the Zoning By-Law, short-term rentals are considered a Conditional Use in certain zones. This means applicants must seek approval from RM Council through the Conditional Use process before operating. This process is guided by The Manitoba Planning Act, which requires municipalities to regulate land use in a fair, transparent, and structured manner.

A Conditional Use hearing is a critical step in this process. It allows Council to fully understand how a proposed business may benefit the municipality while also considering potential impacts. Equally important, it provides neighbouring residents and community members an opportunity to have their voices heard. The RM of Piney intentionally uses general zoning categories to ensure flexibility and encouraging meaningful community input on future commercial, business, and industrial development.

In many cases, small business proposals proceed without opposition. When concerns do arise, the hearing offers a respectful forum for discussion. This balance ensures growth is not unnecessarily restricted, supporting jobs, services & families, while still respecting local perspectives.

Ultimately, the Conditional Use process helps Piney grow responsibly, welcoming new opportunities while keeping community voices at the forefront.

Please visit our website to review the Zoning By-Law or call the RM office for more information.

★ **BBQ & STRATEGIC PLANNING**

1 **Food for thought**

Enjoy a BBQ while assessing our draft strategic plan

WHEN: July 22, 2026 4:30 to 6:30 pm
WHERE: RM office in Vassar

2 **Setting long term direction**

Strategic plans are used to communicate the long-term vision and related priorities to meet community needs and expectations.

3 **Community feedback & ideas**

As we build our roadmap for the future, we need your perspective. Come share your ideas, voice your priorities and opinions on our 2026 draft strategic goals and activities.

**Hope you can join us
on July 22nd!**





ATTENTION:

APRIL RECYCLING TICKET HAS BEEN RE-DRAWN!

Since the winning ticket for April was not claimed, the new winning ticket number for the month of April is:

006955



Congratulations!

Ticket No. 007026 has been drawn as our May winner for our Recycling Incentive Program.

This ticket has already been claimed.

We Need your Input!

The RM of Piney is still looking for your input by filling out a short four question survey on what you would like to see for hours at our three Transfer Stations.

WASTE TRANSFER SITE

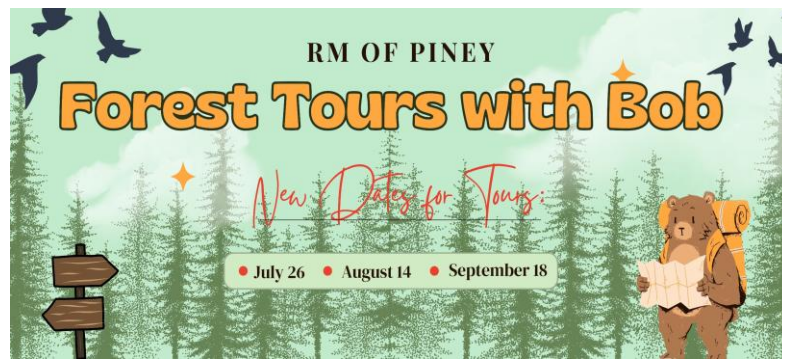
operations hours survey



OPEN UNTIL JULY 31

SCAN QR CODE OR ENTER URL

<https://4eyes.io/s/9Rn3V/>



RM OF PINEY

Forest Tours with Bob

New Dates for Tours:

• July 26 • August 14 • September 18

Sunday, July 26 (1:00 – 4:30pm)

GOODS FROM THE WOODS: NON-TIMBER FOREST PRODUCTS

Participants will spend the first part of the tour harvesting blueberries and saskatoons. They will also learn how to grow mushrooms on oak logs, and how to tap and process maple syrup. Various other products from the forest will be demonstrated, including forest edibles. After the forest tour, we will make our way back to the Council Chambers in Vassar for an informative PowerPoint Presentation on all non-timber forest products. **15 spots available.**

Friday, August 14 (9:30am – 4:30pm)

WEST FRASER MILL TOUR IN BARWICK, ON

This full day tour will take participants behind the scenes to see how our local poplar trees are processed into sheets of particle board (OSB). A significant amount of poplar harvested in the RM of Piney is eventually processed at the West Fraser mill in Barwick, ON for distribution right across North America.

Round-trip transportation will be provided from the RM office from 9:30am – 4:30pm. The tour will stop for a short picnic lunch at the Lighthouse Park in Barwick prior to the tour. If you have any of your own safety gear, please bring it with you. The RM and the mill will provide hard hats, high visibility vests, and hearing/eye protection. **Only participants with a valid passport will be able to attend as we will be crossing the Warroad, MN customs and the Ontario crossing at the Rainy River customs. Due to crossing the US border, please do not pack any fresh fruit in your lunch. As per mill regulations, only participants with steel-toed footwear may attend this tour. 10 spots are available for this tour.**

Friday, September 18 (9:30am – 3:30pm)

FORESTS & PEATLAND: FPM TOUR & ST. LABRE SAWMILL TOUR

From forestry operations to peat moss farming, these resources are an important driver of the economy of south-eastern Manitoba. This tour will show participants how peat land was formed over thousands of years, alongside the boreal forest. We will see how forest products are processed at FPM in Vassar. From there, we will proceed to St. Labre to visit the local sawmill for an in-depth tour. Please pack a bag lunch as we will break between tours for lunch. **15 spots available.**

Participants are to meet at the RM office as transportation will be provided. For Ages 12 & Up; Please call the RM office to reserve your spot. THIS IS A FREE EVENT!

The Role of Council

Leading Your Municipality

Across Canada, there is a wide range of resources available to help residents understand local government and what it means to serve on Council. Organizations such as the Canadian Association of Municipal Administrators (CAMA) and provincial municipal associations provide guides, toolkits, and candidate information for those interested in public service. If you are considering running for office, exploring these resources can provide valuable insight into the responsibilities and expectations of the role.

The following links provide guidance on being a newly elected official. Those seeking additional details of the role of councillor are encouraged to view the material: https://amm.mb.ca/download/guides/AMM_Guidebook_2022_HiRes.pdf
<https://amm.mb.ca/download/guides/CAMA-Council-Orientation-Toolkit-June-2026.pdf>

Understanding the Role of Council

Running for municipal office is ultimately about one thing: helping shape the future of your community. But many first-time candidates enter the process with an incomplete picture of what a councillor actually does.

Council is the governing body of the municipality, much like a board of directors guiding an organization. Its role is not to manage day-to-day operations, but to set direction, establish policies, and make decisions on behalf of residents.

The “Why” Behind Council

Council exists to represent the interests of the community as a whole. This means balancing competing priorities—roads, services, development, recreation, taxation—while thinking long-term. A strong Council looks beyond individual concerns and focuses on community-wide outcomes and sustainability.

Good councillors:

- Bring forward ideas based on what they hear from residents
- Weigh evidence, advice, and impacts carefully
- Think beyond the current term and consider long-term effects
- Work collectively—not individually—to make decisions

It’s important to understand that decisions are made by Council as a whole, not by individual members. Even if elected to represent a specific ward, councillors are responsible for the wellbeing of the entire municipality.

The “What” of Council Work

Council’s work falls primarily into the policy and governance sphere. This includes:

- Setting strategic priorities and long-term plans
- Approving budgets and allocating resources
- Creating bylaws and policies
- Evaluating major initiatives and capital investments
- Representing the municipality to other levels of government

Council also plays an important role in ensuring that the municipality operates transparently and ethically, following established rules around confidentiality, conflict of interest, and conduct.

Council Is a Team

One of the most important—but often overlooked—realities is that Council is a team environment. Success relies on trust, collaboration, and respect.

The most effective councils:

- Build trust early
- Engage in respectful debate
- Support collective decisions once made
- Maintain professionalism—even when disagreements occur

Strong working relationships between councillors are essential to achieving positive outcomes for the community.

What Council Does Not Do

A key concept for new candidates is this: - *Council governs—but does not manage staff.*

Council does not:

- Direct municipal employees
- Make operational decisions
- Interfere in day-to-day service delivery

Instead, Council works through the CAO, who leads administration and implements Council’s decisions.

A Final Thought

Being a councillor is not about individual authority—it is about collective leadership. It requires patience, collaboration, and a focus on outcomes that benefit the broader community. If you are considering running, ask yourself: “Are you ready to move from advocating for ideas to *governing responsibly as part of a team*? That shift—from individual voice to collective decision-making—is the heart of what Council truly is.”



South Junction Community Club Canada Day
Wednesday, July 1st at 8:30pm
Live Entertainment & Fireworks (around 10:30pm)
South Junction Community Club

Access Government Services
Tuesday, July 7th from 9:30am to 3:30pm
East Borderland Primary Health Care Centre

Middlebro Grit & Glory Games
Saturday, July 18th at 4:00pm
Voyager Style Games; For details, contact
middlbro.community.club@gmail.com
Middlebro Community Park

Sprague Fest
Saturday, August 8th ALL DAY EVENT
All Events are held at the Sprague Hall

Piney Regional Chamber of Commerce
Next Meeting will be September 2026

One-Way Traffic and Street Closed in South Junction on July 1st

Fraser Ave. & Chenier St. (Rd 76E) in South Junction will be converted to one-way traffic only on July 1st for the South Junction Canada Day event. Traffic must enter Fraser Ave. off of Main St. in South Junction. The flow of traffic will be Fraser Ave. to Chenier St. (Rd 76E) to HWY 12. HWY 12 & Chenier St. will be used to exit the event.

Prevost Street in South Junction will be closed to all through traffic in the evening of July 1st.

17th annual St-Labre 200



www.stlabre200.ca for more information



Southeast Farmer's Market

Fridays - July 17 to August 28
3:00 – 7:00 pm

Pine Grove Seniors Center
South Junction, Manitoba



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

★ SOUTH JUNCTION ★ ★ 40TH ANNUAL ★ ALL FAMILY SLOW PITCH TOURNAMENT



JULY 25TH



BEER
GARDENS



LIVE
BAND



CANTEEN



FREE
GATE ENTRY

★ Fun for Everyone • Great Friends • Great Times ★