

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

August 2026

MONTHLY REMINDERS



RM Office Closed Monday, August 3rd

August Council Meetings

Committee of the Whole is scheduled for August 5th at 10:00 am and the Regular council meeting is scheduled for August 11th at 10:00 am.

The August 25th meeting has been cancelled.

New Landowners

2026 Property Taxes

The RM of Piney has received the property tax bills from the province and hope to have them mailed this month. Depending on when you purchased your property, the address may not have been changed by the province in time and therefore you may not receive your bill. It is up to the landowner to contact the RM office to confirm whether taxes are owing, even if a tax bill has not been received. For any questions, please contact the RM office.

Added / Reduction Taxes

Added and/or reduction tax bills for 2025 and/or 2026 will be mailed out shortly. If you receive an added/reduction tax bill from us, read the cover letter supplied, as it will state your new total owing that will be due on October 23rd, 2026.



Election Officials Needed

If you are interested in working as an Election Official at this year's Municipal Election, please contact the RM office stating which polling station you would like to work.

Polling stations are as follows:

- Ward 1: Woodridge Community Center
- Ward 2: Piney Community Hall
- Ward 3: Vassar Community Centre
- Ward 4: Sprague Community Hall

**Election Day is Wednesday, October 28th with
Advanced Voting on Saturday, October 17th.**

2027 Property Assessments

All Manitoba properties were reassessed for 2027, based on market conditions as of April 1, 2025. Reassessment happens every two years to help ensure fairness and consistency across all properties and will be used to calculate municipal taxes for the 2027 tax year.

Your 2027 assessment is not a tax bill, and a higher assessed value does not automatically mean higher taxes. It is also important to note that your 2027 assessment has no impact on your 2026 tax bill, as 2026 taxes were calculated using the previous assessment cycle. Any changes made through the appeal process will apply only to the 2027 tax year, not retroactively.

Board of Revision

The Board of Revision is your municipality's formal appeal body that hears complaints about property assessments. If you disagree with your 2027 Assessment, you can file a written appeal by the deadline printed on your assessment notice.

Your assessment notice includes:

- The deadline to file an appeal
- The date of your municipality's Board of Revision
- Instructions on how to submit a written complaint

Property Assessment Services Office

Before submitting an appeal, it is strongly recommended that property owners contact Property Assessment Services. Many questions or concerns can be resolved directly with an assessor, saving time and avoiding the need for a formal hearing.

Assessors can review how your property value was determined, explain any changes from previous years, correct factual errors such as square footage or building details, and provide guidance on whether an appeal is appropriate.

This step often provides clarity and may resolve the issue without proceeding to the Board of Revision. If you still disagree with your assessment after talking to an assessor, the Board of Revision is your next step.

Steinbach Property Assessment Services Office

204-326-9896 / 1-866-216-9342
assessmentsteinbach@gov.mb.ca
www.gov.mb.ca/mao/public/default.aspx

Preparing for an Appeal

If you wish to proceed with a formal appeal, ensure your written submission is filed on or before 4:30pm on October 2nd, 2026. Late submissions cannot be accepted.



RM of Piney Fall 2016 Seedling Program

The RM of Piney is pleased to announce that we have again secured 2,500 White Spruce seedlings coming in September. Seedlings will only be available to rate payers in our RM.

Seedlings will be sold in bundles of 25 seedlings at the cost of \$7.50 per bundle (\$0.30 per seedling) plus G.S.T. totalling \$7.88 per bundle. Pre-paid orders will be accepted, starting August 3rd, 2016. Payments can be made by cash, cheque, debit, or by credit card (with a 2% service fee). Call the RM office to reserve your seedlings!

Once the seedlings are available, rate payers with pre-orders will be contacted directly with pick up dates.

THE JUNE WINNING TICKET NUMBER IS: 007621



Congratulations to the
June winner of the
Recycling Incentive Program.

Please call the RM office if you
are the holder of this ticket
number to claim your prize!

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT!

Since no one claimed either of the April
Winning Tickets, another ticket was
drawn for the month of June.

THE SECOND WINNER FOR
JUNE IS TICKET NUMBER:

007606

Please call or email the RM
if you are the ticket holder.

RM OF PINEY

Forest Tours with Bob

New Dates for Tours:

• August 14 • September 18

Friday, August 14th (9:30am – 4:30pm)

WEST FRASER MILL TOUR IN BARWICK, ONTARIO

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, & 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.**

Friday, September 18th (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 for lunch.

Participants are to meet at the RM office in Vassar (6092 Boundary St.) for each tour.

Transportation will be provided from the RM office to and from each touring site.

For Ages 12 & Up

To reserve your spot, please call 204-437-2284 or email:
carrie@rmofpiney.mb.ca

This is a Free Event!

PROTECTIVE SERVICES



Sprague RCMP

August is a busy time in the RM of Piney. With many people travelling, camping, or spending time at seasonal properties, it's also a time when thefts from vehicles, garages, sheds, and cottages tend to increase.

Taking a few simple precautions can make a big difference. Lock your vehicles and buildings, keep valuables out of sight, and don't leave keys or garage door openers where they're easily accessible. If you're going to be away for a few days, ask a neighbour, friend, or family member to check on your property from time to time.

Marking valuable property with identifying information and keeping an up-to-date inventory, including photographs and serial numbers, can assist police if stolen items are recovered.

We also encourage residents to pay attention to what's happening in their neighbourhood. If you notice unfamiliar vehicles driving around repeatedly or suspicious activity near homes or businesses, or any activity that seems out of the ordinary, please report it as soon as possible to the Sprague RCMP. What may seem unusual to you could be valuable information to an ongoing investigation.

Working together is one of the best ways to prevent crime. A few extra precautions and timely reporting can go a long way in helping keep the community a safe place to live, work, and enjoy the remainder of the summer.

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

Fall Hunting Lease

By-Law No. 123/2017

As of August 14th, you can purchase a Fall Hunting Lease that will allow you to hunt on RM land from **September 1st - November 30th**. Leases are for hunting purposes only. No trees are to be removed, and no trails are to be made on RM land. Vehicles are only permitted on land during the retrieval of harvested game. The **cost is \$500.00** for one permit that allows up to five (5) individuals permission to access one parcel of RM land during one regular season.

Be Aware of All Burn/Travel Bans

There are currently no burn bans in place for the RM of Piney.

Updates will be posted on our Facebook page and website, in our Newsletters, and on our info line at 204-437-2845.

Burning Permits Required

April 1st – November 15th

Burning Permits can only be obtained from your local Conservation Office.

Sprague: 204-437-2348 ~ Marchand: (204) 424-4025
Steinbach: 204-346-6110



https://www.gov.mb.ca/conservation_fire/Restrictions/index.html

ATV/UTV Safety Tips



Wear Proper Gear

Helmet, goggles, gloves, boots, and clothing.



Supervise Young Riders

Monitor kids and ride age-appropriate ATVs.



Be Visible

Ensure your ATV has functioning headlights and taillights.



Ride Sober

Never ride an ATV under the influence of drugs or alcohol.



Ride Defensively

Be aware of other riders and obstacles. Keep a safe distance from other ATVs.



Stay on Trails

Respect private property and stay on marked trails.



Know Your Route

Inform someone of your intended route and return time.



Ride with Others

Avoid riding alone and consider riding in a group for safety.



Avoid Riding at Night

Low visibility increases your risk of accidents.



Carry Safety Kit

First-aid kit, tool kit for minor repairs, radio or phone, map or GPS.



Obey Traffic Laws

Adhere to traffic laws and regulations, even on unpaved roads.



Take a Safety Course

Learn proper handling, braking, and turning before hitting the trails.

The First Six Months: What Happens After You're Elected

Getting elected is a significant achievement, but it is also the beginning of a steep learning curve. For many new councillors, the first six months can feel overwhelming. It is a period of learning, relationship building, and developing an understanding of how the municipality operates.

One of the first priorities for a newly elected Council is orientation. In the RM of Piney, councillors receive an orientation binder containing key information about the municipality's governance framework, including policies, procedures, and bylaws. These documents are more than administrative records; they represent years of work by previous councils and administration to establish clear direction, consistent practices, and sound decision-making. Taking the time to become familiar with them provides an important foundation for serving effectively.

For many first-time councillors, there is a natural desire to focus immediately on the issues that inspired them to run for office. While that enthusiasm is valuable, understanding the municipality's existing framework is equally important. The policies, procedures, and bylaws of the RM provide the context behind many of Council's decisions and help ensure consistency, fairness, and accountability in municipal government.

Orientation also provides an opportunity to become familiar with the municipality itself. The RM of Piney typically conducts a field tour of municipal infrastructure and facilities, giving councillors a firsthand look at the roads, equipment, buildings, drainage systems, and other assets they will be responsible for governing. Seeing these assets in person often provides valuable context when future discussions arise around budgets, priorities, and capital investments.

As councillors settle into their role, one of the most important lessons is understanding the distinction between governance and administration. Council's responsibility is to determine the why and the when. Why should a project move forward? Why should resources be directed toward a particular priority? When should an issue be addressed?

Administration's responsibility is to determine the how. Staff bring professional expertise, technical knowledge, and operational experience to implement Council's decisions and deliver services efficiently. Understanding and respecting this relationship is fundamental to effective municipal government.

The early months of a term are also a time for building relationships. Council members bring different experiences, perspectives, and priorities to the table, yet decisions must be made collectively. Productive councils are built on trust, respect, open communication, and a willingness to listen. The ability to work together, particularly when opinions differ, often has a greater impact on long-term success than any single policy decision.

As Council begins discussing priorities, it is important to recognize that the municipality is not starting from scratch. The RM of Piney's Strategic Plan and other key planning documents provide the foundation for future decision-making. Significant effort, consultation, and planning have gone into developing these documents, helping define the community's long-term vision and objectives. New councillors who take the time to understand these foundations are better equipped to make informed decisions, maintain continuity, and focus their efforts on achieving meaningful results.

These planning documents are valuable because they capture work that has already been completed on behalf of the community. They reflect extensive discussion about needs, opportunities, challenges, and priorities. Understanding these documents allows Council to focus less on re-examining past decisions and more on determining how best to move the municipality forward.

Perhaps the biggest adjustment for many new councillors is learning that meaningful progress often takes time. Municipal decisions require careful analysis, financial review, legislative compliance, and consideration of long-term impacts. While the pace can sometimes feel slow, these processes help ensure decisions are responsible, transparent, and sustainable.

For many new councillors, one of the most valuable skills developed during this period is learning to ask good questions. Understanding why things are done a certain way often provides greater insight than immediately proposing changes. The councillors who take time to learn, listen, and understand the full context behind municipal operations are frequently the most effective contributors over the long term.

Municipal governance author and advisor George Cuff has long advocated that successful councils focus on governing rather than managing, and that their effectiveness is measured by how well they work together to advance their community's long-term goals. That philosophy is particularly important for newly elected councillors. The strongest councils are not those that try to reinvent everything, but those that understand the foundations already in place and work collectively to build upon them.

The first six months are not about having all the answers. They are about learning how the municipality works, understanding the foundations already in place, and asking thoughtful questions. Councillors who invest in understanding their role, their municipality, and its long-term vision are well positioned to contribute to the success of the community for years to come.

A New Chapter for Sunrise Corner: Simply Better in the RM of Piney

You may already be familiar with Sunrise Corner Economic Development & Tourism and the work we've done over the past several years to support local businesses, promote tourism and strengthen our communities. Sunrise Corner is entering a new chapter.

Sunrise Corner is now the economic development and tourism brand exclusively for the RM of Piney, helping us promote opportunities to live, experience, build, and grow here. It will also help bring to life what we mean when we say life in Piney is Simply Better.

Simply Better isn't about being better than somewhere else. It's about choosing what matters most. More space than congestion. More neighbours than strangers. More trails than traffic. More nature than noise. It's about communities where people know one another and where economic growth, environmental stewardship, and rural quality of life can work together.

I'm also pleased to reintroduce myself. I'm Monique Chenier, and I have returned in a new role as the RM of Piney's Economic Development Officer. My revised position brings together three interconnected areas: business and economic development, tourism, and community and recreation support.

On the economic development side, I'll work directly with existing businesses, entrepreneurs and potential investors to support business retention and expansion, connect people with programs and resources, promote investment opportunities, and help advance housing and residential development initiatives.

Through Sunrise Corner, I'll continue promoting tourism by showcasing the RM of Piney's natural assets, outdoor recreation, local businesses, attractions and events. Our goal is to attract visitors, strengthen the local visitor economy and introduce more people to the experiences that make Piney Simply Better.

My expanded responsibilities also include community and recreation support. I'll work with community clubs and non-profit organizations to identify grant and funding opportunities, support recreation and community assets, strengthen volunteer capacity, and develop partnerships that contribute to vibrant, sustainable communities.

Our purpose is clear: to strengthen the RM of Piney by supporting the people, businesses and organizations that call it home while attracting new opportunities that are the right fit for our communities.

An updated website, social media and marketing materials are currently being developed. In the meantime, if you're a business owner with an idea or challenge, an entrepreneur considering a new venture, a community organization looking for support, or someone interested in investing in the RM of Piney, I'd love to hear from you.



Monique Chenier,
Economic Development Officer
monique@rmofpiney.mb.ca



Southeast Farmer's Market
Every Friday in August from 3:00 – 7:00pm
Pine Grove Seniors Center in South Junction
Canteen will be open inside the Pine Grove Seniors

Piney Regional Chamber of Commerce
10 Year Anniversary Celebration
Thursday, September 10th, 2026
BBQ at 6pm with Chamber Meeting at 8pm
RSVP: hello@pineyregionalchamber.ca

Piney Annual ATV Derby
Saturday, September 26, 2026

Cooking Classes
Monday, September 14th at 5pm in Piney
September in Sprague & October in Woodridge

Health Info Sessions
Diabetes Type 2 & Men's Health - DTB
To register for any of these events, email
connie@rmofpiney.mb.ca or call 204-905-3740.

Woodridge Community Club **invites you to attend our dine-in** **FALL SUPPER**

Saturday, September 12, 2026
4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
at the Woodridge Community Centre
69 Denis Street, Woodridge, MB

*Menu will include some of your favorites . . .
fried chicken, meatballs, perogies, mashed potatoes,
garlic sausage & sauerkraut, a variety of side dishes
and a dessert buffet. (Menu subject to change)*

TICKETS MUST BE PURCHASED IN ADVANCE!

*Tickets can be purchased from any WCC board member,
at the Woodridge Vintage Corner Store
and the Woodridge Garage
before September 7th.*

*There will be no tickets on sale at the door.
Questions? Call 204-429-2344*

Adult/Teen: \$25
Youth (6 - 12 years): \$15
Children under 5 years: Free

SPRAGUE FEST

FAMILY FUN DAY & SOCIAL EVENING

SATURDAY, AUG. 8, 2026

EVENTS FOR THE DAY

8am - 10am - **PANCAKE BREAKFAST** (free will offering...min \$10 per plate)
 10am - **PARADE REGISTRATION**
 10:30am - **PARADE STARTS**
 (call Chuck 204.408.1355 or Jackie 204.371.0151)
 9am - 11am **PETTING ZOO**
SILENT AUCTION: OPEN ALL DAY, DRAWN AT THE SOCIAL (License #411)
MEAT RAFFLE (License #410)
CONCESSION STAND - OPEN ALL DAY
"All Fun and Games for Children" 11am - 4pm
WOOD CARVING DEMONSTRATION - 1pm - 2pm
BEER GARDENS - NOON TO 10pm (License #W154610)
GAMES: PICKLE BALL - call Jerry 204.437.2704 - **CORN HOLE START 12pm**
BINGO - STARTS selling at **2:30pm** - Games start at **3:30pm** (License 426-BI-50479)
 BREAK/OPEN LICENCE # 426-BO-50480
SPRAGUE FEST EVENING BEER GARDENS SOCIAL UNTIL 10pm

PROCEEDS FROM THIS ANNUAL EVENT HELPS SUPPORT YOUR COMMUNITY CENTER.
Thank you!

sponsored by:
MANITOBA LIQUOR & LOTTERIES

VASSAR

August 14th, 15th, 16th 2026
 Weekend

FRIDAY Night Dance ft.

Good n Dusty! - \$10
 SATURDAY Open Air
 Dance DJ Music-\$10
 Weekend Camping
 Available -\$20
 Canteen available

Saturday Slo-Pitch

6 men,
 4 women
 \$300/Team

Sat. Gate fee \$5
 Sun. No gate fee

Sat/Sun

Silent
 Auction
 Canteen
 Showers

Sunday Activities

Breakfast @ Park 9:00-11:00
 Cornhole Registration 11:00
 Am, Games beginning @ noon.
 Car Show on the Diamonds
 Kids Activities
 BINGO 1:00-3:30

Ball registration contact Jeremy Culleton
 culleyjj@gmail.com or 204-437-3168
 E-Transfer to vassarreccentre@gmail.com

CARRICK

CARRICK DAYS

August 8th & 9th, 2026



BOUNCY TENTS



PETTING ZOO



DUNK TANK



KIDS' PLAYGROUND



LIVE ENTERTAINMENT



FOOD & REFRESHMENTS

Fun for the Whole Family!

EVERYONE WELCOME!