VILLAGE OF VILNA

Newsletter

JANUARY 2026



COUNCIL NOTES

Summary of 2025

Some of the projects the Village and partners have been involved with are:

Water Reservoir

The Water Reservoir Project is the primary project for 2025/2026. The whole project will cost approximately $7.9 Million dollars. We received an Alberta Municipal Water and Wastewater Partnership grant for half of this cost and have made application for another 25%. We are hoping that *most* of the Village's 25% share will be covered by past, current and future Local Government Fiscal Framework and Canada Community Partnership grants. Unfortunately, we will almost certainly require a debenture. How large is not known until we are aware of the additional funding that may be approved

Regional Fire & Rescue



Effective January 1, 2026 the Smoky Lake Regional Fire and Rescue Service came into effect. The Regional Fire & Rescue Service will lease our fire hall from us and provide all of the necessary equipment and training to provide fire service to the Village, surrounding area and the Smoky Lake Region as a whole. As always, there is a need for volunteers. If you're interested, contact our Fire Chief at 780-656-0104.

The Regional fire service will require a municipal contribution from the Village of approximately $49,000.00 annually.

It also means that each time the department is called out there will be a cost to the property owner. The current rate set is:

"In consideration of all circumstances surrounding an Insurable or Negligent Fire, The Village shall charge residents the following fees for fire calls:"

Property and/or Vehicle Fires:

$400.00 per hour per Fire Apparatus.
With a Minimum charge of $400.00

We therefore want to ***stress the need for fire protection insurance.*** *If you have a fire, charges will be billed to you. If you don't pay the bill the costs will be attached to your property taxes. If you're a tenant, protect your belongings with Tenant Insurance. Regardless of the reason for the fire, the landlord is not obligated to cover your belongings.*

Winter Snow Removal Policy #402

Purpose: To set snow removal and winter road maintenance priorities that result in safe road and sidewalk conditions.

Policy Statement: The Village of Vilna values safety of residents & staff in the performance of maintenance and prevention of harm to people, property or municipal assets including infrastructure, equipment and public or private buildings.

1. **Road Maintenance Priorities:**

Snow removal from the village streets will proceed in the following order as is possible when necessary equipment is operational:

- Main street sidewalks
- Main business thoroughfares
- Access to Fire Hall and Medical Clinic
- School Bus Routes
- Secondary business streets
- Both sides of main street from 49th Avenue to the north boundary and all sides of municipal buildings as necessary
- Residential streets
- Fire Hydrants and Senior's Driveways for paid FCSS participants

2. **Snow Removal Priorities**:

Only the main business thoroughfares, as outlined in Appendix A, will have complete snow removal service.
All other routes, except the Vilna School location, will have snow pushed to each side of the road.
At Vilna School, 52nd Avenue from 50th Street to 51st Street, snow will be pushed to the opposite side of the street.
If there are no residences or businesses on one side of any street, snow will be pushed to the unoccupied side of the street.

3. **Sidewalks:**

While sidewalks are ultimately the responsibility of the landowner whose property adjoins the sidewalk, the Village may proceed with snow removal at its discretion.

- Sidewalk snow removal will proceed in the following order:
  - Main Street sidewalks
  - Sidewalks bordering Village of Vilna Property
4. **Driveways:** will be only cleared of the snow windrow left by equipment during regular street maintenance.
- Opening driveways will not be a priority over water or sewer maintenance or emergencies.

The Village offers Driveway Clearing Service

The program provides assistance through FCSS funding (Family and Community Support Services) to senior residents of Vilna by clearing snow from their driveways to allow them access in or out.

Eligibility

Residents of the Village of Vilna who are

- Senior Citizens who live at home (either owned or rented), or
- Residents who have a disability that, in the opinion of the physician, renders the applicant incapable of carrying out snow removal.

The cost for this service is **$75.00 per year** (Policy 414) and each applicant is required to agree to sign a waiver of liability. Except in emergency situations, this snow clearing is done when the main priorities are done.

Building a Safe Community

RCMP must deal with break and enters, vandalism, vehicle thefts, fuel thefts, cyber-crimes, harassment, mental health challenges and many other issues. None of this is new, but crime is something we all need to be aware of and watch for. Ensure you can report details of suspicious activity/crimes to the RCMP.

- **Use caution when buying and selling online**

Criminals can use the anonymity of the Internet to rip off unsuspecting victims.

- **Be aware of fraudulent callers**

Criminals hide behind the anonymity of the telephone and defraud thousands each year. AI is making it harder to determine "fraudulence"

- **Lottery scams**

The victims received a phone call/letter or email to say they won a prize but have to send money for duty, taxes, delivery and legal fees. Victims either never hear from the organization again or receive further requests for money.

AROUND THE VILLAGE

- ***FIREMAN'S BALL* – Saturday January 31st, 2026**
  Cocktails – 5:30 p.m.
  Dinner – 6:30 p.m.
  Dance 9:00 p.m.
  Tickets at Cyr's Store (ATB) & Family Grocery Store.
  Tickets will also be available at the door.

Vilna FCSS is hosting a whole bunch of ***Kids and Family programs***, like painting, science experiments, etc. with the assistance of Smoky Lake Family Resource Network, at the Vilna Library. Check their website at:
frnregionalprograms@smokylake.ca.

Mushroom Park Skating Rink

WE ARE SO APPRECIATIVE OF OUR Vilna Fire Department!!

They have flooded the skating rink at Mushroom Park. It's available for everyone to use! The volunteers do what they can to keep the snow shoveled off but aren't always able. You might have to clean some snow before you use it.

MONTHLY PAYMENTS



The Village offers a Monthly Payment Program for Property Taxes and Utilities. If you are interested, contact us at 780-636-3620 or vilna@mcsnet.ca

NOTE: BILLINGS CAN BE SENT STRAIGHT TO YOUR INBOX VIA EMAIL! CALL OR EMAIL THE OFFICE TO PROVIDE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS TO SIGN UP

Please do not attempt to talk to the Public Works staff while they are working, especially when they are operating equipment….. It's a safety thing. If you have an issue or concern at any time on any matter, call the office. Also, civility is very much appreciated.

It can be difficult to determine why a thing is being done a certain way, at a certain time, or at all. We often receive "suggestions" – opinions – on how a thing "should" be done. These opinions may not be adequately informed.

We are always ready to answer your questions about the whys and wherefores, if we can. Give the office a call and *ASK*. An incredible amount of incorrect information is out there, very easily solved by simply asking at the source of the information, rather than assuming the tidbit you heard at the store or in the coffee shop is accurate.

GARBAGE COLLECTION
Village of Vilna Policy #510

Garbage is picked up Wednesday and must be out at 8am. Cardboard is collected first, then the garbage.

Several properties have been putting out 10, 15, 20 bags of garbage WEEKLY!

Please note that Public Works staff are required to pick up your solid waste only if it is in proper garbage bags, placed in appropriate containers with tight lids**. 5 bags per week is the limit and the bags must not weigh more than 20kg/44lbs each**. If there is any question that the handling of the garbage is unsafe, it will not be picked up.

COUNCIL MEETINGS
Next Regular Council Meetings - 5:30 p.m.
Thursday January 15th, 2026 & and
Thursday February 12th, 2026

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