

SUMMER VILLAGE OF WHISPERING HILLS

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The annual meeting will be held on Saturday, July 18th at a new time of **10:00 A.M.** at **THE SUMMER VILLAGE GARAGE**. Annual picnic to follow at the ball diamond at 12:30 p.m. PLEASE DO NOT BRING YOUR PETS TO THE PICNIC FOOD AREA. BRING LAWN CHAIRS.

BOAT LAUNCH

Just a reminder that there is no parking at the boat launch area.. Please ensure that the new docks are available to the residents at all times and not blocked in any way. These docks are not meant to be used for overnight mooring of your boats.

PERMITS

The Summer Village requires development permits for construction projects. The province of Alberta requires that any construction be completed in accordance with the Safety Codes Act. You must have permits for all gas, plumbing, heating, electrical and building construction, **but will need your development permit first**. You also need a permit for any demolition project or any clearing that may affect the contour of the land.

ANIMAL CONTROL

We are happy to report that the dog situation in the summer village, although not perfect, continues to improve. Just a reminder that each residence is only allowed to have 2 dogs over the age of 6 months.

PROPERTY TAX NOTICES

You will not notice any significant change in your tax bill this year. We have, however, applied a minimum tax so that every property is charged a minimum of \$400 for the municipal portion of their taxes. Council feels that many of the residents who own bare property use the summer village facilities just as much as the cottage owners and permanent residents.

NEW SUBDIVISION

We have still not finalized the agreement for the next stage of the development but are hopeful that the developer will be moving ahead this summer.

ROADWORK

Whispering Hills road took a bit of a beating this past winter due to the freezing rain we had. Pot holes should be repaired by May 1 and we will be SEAL COATING in early September. The crescents will be graded and calcium applied this spring. You may notice more gravel in the ditches this year due to the amount of grading that had to be done because of the ICE situation.

WEBSITE

Our website is svwhisperinghills.com. We are open to any suggestions any of the residents might have for articles on the website. Anyone who does not have access to a computer or is not “connected”, please feel free to contact anyone at the top of the page for such things as bylaws, newsletters, permits etc.

FIRESMART

In co-operation with Firesmart, we have once again arranged to pay a landfill fee so that the residents can dispose of their yard debris at the landfill during the period of May 21st – May 31st free of charge. This is for wood, grass, leaves, tree branches and other vegetation only. No household garbage. Join your neighbors and take advantage of this opportunity to make your community FIRESMART. For more information on the Firesmart program, contact Athabasca County Emergency Services Department at 780-675-2273.

Athabasca County will also be picking up trimmed branches which are left on the edge of your property as a joint effort with the Forest Resource Improvement Association of Alberta to help property owners increase fire safety by reducing the amount of woody vegetation this spring.. They must be at the curb no later than May 19th to be chipped and hauled away.

FIRES

We urge everyone to keep a close eye on any campfires over the summer, especially if we have a dry year. Please watch for signs about fire bans being in place. Signs may have a little different look to them this year as the program is changing its signage to try and make it more clear. It is a good idea to check your insurance to see if you are covered for any damage caused by your camp fires.

Please pay close attention to fire fighting planes which may be using our lake in the summer time. Please be sure to give these planes all the freedom they need to fight fires. According to Section 16 of the Forest and prairie Protection Act “When a lake is being used by aircraft carrying on fire bombing operations, no person shall, without the prior permission of the Minister, venture on or into the water beyond 30 meters from the nearest water’s edge. Section 29)2) of the regulations provides for a maximum fine of \$1,000.00.

FIRE HALL

The new firehall location is Hwy 2 and Twp Road 674. Many of you should save money on insurance with this closer proximity. Be sure to check with your insurance provider.

VANDALISM

There were reports of vandalism and theft in the village over the winter months. Make sure things are secured when you are not at the cottage and that you have adequate insurance.

Council and Administration wish you a fun and safe summer at the lake.