

Spring 2025 Newsletter

HELLO SUNSET BEACH!

Summer is just around the corner, and we're looking forward to another great season in our beautiful lakeside community. Here are a few updates and reminders to help you stay informed and connected:

2025 IS AN ELECTION YEAR

If you've ever thought about getting involved in your local government, now's a great time to consider running for Council! Nomination forms are due by June 7. They will be accepted between the hours of 11:00 am and 1:pm at the West Baptiste Firehall. It is important that your forms are completed correctly so make sure you contact Kim to find out how. Forms and more information are available from the CAO or on the website on the <u>elections tab</u>. The names of those who file a notice of intent to run for council will be posted on the website.

MAYOR LINDSKOOG

We would like to share that Mayor Mark Lindskoog has officially resigned from Council. We extend our heartfelt thanks to Mark for his many years of dedicated service to our community and wish him all the very best in the future.

ANNUAL INFORMATION MEETING

Council has decided to postpone this years Annual Information Meeting until after a new council is elected. This will give residents a chance to meet the new council. Stay tuned for information.

FIRE SAFETY REMINDER

It's extremely dry out there, so please stay alert. Be sure to check the fire status signs posted throughout the Summer Village for the latest fire ban information. You can also visit www.albertafirebans.ca and sign up for alerts specific to our area.

A friendly reminder that fireworks are strictly prohibited in the Summer Village of Sunset Beach. Let's all do our part to follow the rules and help keep our community safe.

WHAT'S NEW AROUND THE SUMMER VILLAGE

Centennial Park – Bear-proof garbage bins have now been installed, with new picnic tables arriving soon and a seasonal porta-potty on the way. Council is also exploring the possibility of adding a storage building in Centennial Park, thanks to available grant funding.

Welcome Guide - Please check out our new <u>welcome guide</u> on the website. Whether you are new to the summer village or not, we think you will find the information helpful. Let us know if we missed anything you would like to see added.

Golf Carts - Golf Carts are now legal in the Summer Village but you must register them. Sunset Beach is participating in the Province's 5 Year Pilot Project to allow Golf Carts on Municipal Roads. Please check out the <u>Golf Cart page</u> of the Welcome Guide to find out how to register your golf cart.

Bylaws & Info – Council and Administration are currently in the process of updating several older bylaws. Please check out the <u>information tab</u> of the website for a complete listing of current bylaws.

Waterline Project - Athabasca County and the summer villages surrounding Baptiste and Island Lakes are working together to run waterlines to our areas. The province is covering 90% of the cost, and Sunset Beach's portion will be funded entirely through grant money. Planning is ongoing and we'll share updates as they come.



COUNCIL

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ADMINISTRATION

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PROPERTY TAXES

You may notice an increase in your taxes this year. We work hard to keep your taxes as low as possible. This year the increase is largely due to Provincial School Taxes. School taxes increased significantly province wide. Remember that taxes are due by August 31. Details on how to pay can be found on your tax notice.

AED-AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS

AEDs are currently located at 515 Willow Drive and 705 Willow Drive. We are still looking for someone to host the third one. The Summer Village will cover the associated power bill. Give Kim a call if you are interested.

RESIDENT NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

As previously discussed, Fred Black and Derek Hall have been investigating options for a Sunset Beach Crime Watch in coordination with the RCMP.

The goal is to create a resource for all Sunset Beach owners and residents:

- on safety information and best practices for property owners,
- to help and advise the Village Council and operations if requested,
- to share information on incidents in the Village and area, and
- to update and maintain the emergency contact database.

Look for updates in future newsletters, and don't hesitate to email us if you have any questions or concerns - SVSBwatch@gmail.com

Thanks - and we look forward to hearing your ideas! Fred Black & Derek Hall

RESIDENT FACEBOOK PAGE

There is a Facebook page to encourage community communications. This page will be open to residents only. You will be required to provide your name and lot number when signing up so they can confirm you are indeed a resident of the summer village.

The purpose of this page is for the neighbors of Sunset Beach to communicate regarding suspicious activity, local crimes, property damage, property concerns, lake levels, missing / found items including pets, community events and meetings and to foster a supportive and safe summer village community.

This is a closed group meaning your membership is public but all posts are private and only visible to group members.

Council encourages all residents to join, however please note that this is a page operated and monitored by residents only. It is not intended to request administrative assistance. Should you require administrative assistance, you will need to contact administration directly at the contact options provided. Administration will not be monitoring this Facebook page.

To sign up, please visit the Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/groups/1988584451441257/ and send a private message to the administrators with your address.

CRIME IN THE SUMMER VILLAGE

Crime can be an ongoing issue in all summer villages. Residents are advised to make sure they secure their homes properly, especially when leaving for the winter. It is a good idea to ensure that administration has your emergency contact information as well as possibly a neighbor that can alert you to any problems. Here are some RCMP suggestions for summer villages;

- Install 3M Security glaze on windows
- Plant gnarly bushes, such as roses, under windows
- Well lit properties
- Well secured doors and windows
- Remove firearms, electronics and expensive items during the winter months
- Do not keep keys in any vehicles
- Do not hide keys to your buildings in easy to find locations

SLOW DOWN IN THE SUMMER VILLAGE

We are asking that residents please slow down when driving through the summer village. This is for everyone's safety.

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

Please make sure that administration has your current phone number and email address. This is how you will be contacted in the event of an emergency.

Wishing everyone a safe and fun summer!