



## Summer Village of Sunset Beach

# Spring 2026 Newsletter

### HELLO SUNSET BEACH!

As we head into a new season, it's always nice to see Sunset Beach come alive again. For our year-round residents, the change in season brings a welcome shift after winter, and for those returning to the lake, it's the start of another summer to look forward to.

This time of year is all about getting back outside, reconnecting with neighbours, and enjoying everything our community has to offer. Whether you're here full-time or just arriving for the season, we're glad to have you as part of Sunset Beach.

Council and Administration have been busy over the winter months preparing for the year ahead, and we're looking forward to another safe and enjoyable season for everyone.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Wishing everyone a great spring and summer at Sunset Beach!

### WHAT'S NEW AROUND THE SUMMER VILLAGE

**Centennial Park** – Our new garage is installed and ready for use. A new playground is coming soon along with 2 Horseshoe pits.

**Turnaround** - The turnaround at the end of the summer village will be having some work done to widen it soon. This will allow larger vehicles such as School buses, holiday trailer rigs, and large trucks to make the turn without having to drive onto the grassed shoulder; something that has been increasingly frequent. Care will be taken to minimize the construction activity impact on surrounding residents. This project is completely paid for by grant funding.

**Main Road** - We will likely be doing some roadwork this summer to improve the main road near the entrance but are still gathering quotes on this work at this time. More information to follow.

**Speed Signs** - We have purchased some speed radar signs and will be deploying them around our village this summer to encourage safe driving and collect data on possible problem areas. This project is also completely paid for by grant funding.

**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 [Golf Cart page](#) 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 [information tab of the website for a complete listing of current bylaws](#).

**Waterline Project** - Athabasca County has decided to fund the waterline project on their own so Sunset Beach will no longer be contributing funds to this project.

### 2026 PROPERTY TAXES – WHAT TO EXPECT

We want to be upfront—this is going to be a tougher year than usual when it comes to property taxes in Sunset Beach. In most years, Council works hard to keep increases around 3% or less. That approach helps keep things predictable while still putting a little aside in reserves for future needs. Unfortunately, this year we're facing several cost increases that are simply out of our control.

The biggest one is the provincial education tax, which has gone up by over 9%. This is set by the province, not the Summer Village, but it still shows up on your tax bill.

Also, we've been served notice to negotiate a new fire protection agreement with Athabasca County and are currently engaged in the process that may also see maintenance and operational management changes to the Baptiste and Island lake Fire Halls. While this should strengthen fire services in the long run, it will come with higher costs for each Summer Village. Since negotiations are still ongoing, we've had to budget based on the best information available right now.

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### AED—AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS

AEDs are currently located at 312 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.

Another change this year is emergency management. Athabasca County is no longer providing this service to the Summer Villages, so in order to save costs and pool resources we've partnered regionally and hired a Director of Emergency Management, Phyllis Forsythe. This ensures we're still properly prepared in case of an emergency—but it does add additional cost.

On top of all of that, we also need to continue building our reserves so we can plan for future projects and unexpected expenses without large spikes down the road.

We know increases are never welcome, and we don't take that lightly. This year's changes are largely driven by factors outside of Council's control, and we're doing our best to manage them responsibly.

We're hopeful that things will level out next year and that we can return to more typical, modest increases.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support of our community.

### **ANNUAL INFORMATION MEETING**

The annual information meeting will be held on Saturday, August 22 at 10:00 am at the Gazebo in Centennial Park come rain or shine! Coffee and donuts will be provided. Please bring your own lawn chair if you have one.

### **FIRE SAFETY REMINDER**

As always, fire risk is very real in our area, 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](http://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.

### **FEEDING WILDLIFE**

Residents are reminded that feeding deer and other wildlife is illegal in Alberta. Feeding wildlife causes animals to become habituated to people and residential areas, which can create safety concerns and increase damage to lawns, gardens, and property.

### **INSURANCE**

The Association of Summer Villages of Alberta has asked us to remind residents that you need to make sure your dock and any dock related activities are covered under your property insurance.

### **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

### **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!**