

County News



Spring is finally here!

It seems as though spring has finally arrived. With the annual thaw comes the usual problem of roads getting boggy and we really appreciate ratepayers keeping us informed of soft spots. We endeavour to repair our roads in a timely fashion to ensure minimal negative impacts on commerce in our County.

We are fortunate in that we have both the Bow and Little Bow river valleys within Vulcan County, however with flood mitigation plans progressing up-stream of us on both rivers, it has become quite the full-time job to attend meetings and read through proposed plans that will no doubt affect properties downstream. We've applied for further flood mitigation funding to enable us to bring on temporary staff to thoroughly go over these proposals and attend planning meetings, keeping the interest of Vulcan County and its residents in mind and working on our own plans for mitigation as the impacts in our County of up-stream works become clearer.

One of the lessons learned after the municipal disasters that have taken place over recent years is how reliant we have become on technology. A number of municipalities lost all of their data and files in fires and floods creating huge difficulties. Vulcan County recently applied for and received partnership grant funding of \$247,000 from the Province to put in place a more secure and robust data back-up system. Partnering with the County of Newell, Vulcan County will set up a system where we will continuously back up all our data to a site at the County of Newell and they will do likewise with their data at a site in Vulcan County. This will ensure that in the event of a disaster at either municipal site, our data will be safe, secure and easy to retrieve, and, unlike cloud-type backup systems, our data will not be

subject to sometimes problematic privacy and/or disclosure laws of other entities or countries. And speaking of emergencies, if you have not already submitted your emergency contact form (sent to every ratepayer last summer) please do so right away. There is a copy included with this newsletter, the information will only be used in the event of an emergency or evacuation order. If you have renters on your property that may not receive this publication, please encourage them to call us at 403-485-2241.

Council has been looking at finding alternative ways to communicate with our ratepayers, this newsletter is currently our main source of communication along with our website (www.vulcancounty.ab.ca). We encourage you to sign up to receive this publication by e-mail as, with ever-increasing postal rates, it may not be cost effective to continue a mailed version in the future and an electronic version is also more eco-friendly.

Seasonal employees have been hired and are back to work for the summer and fall, our agricultural crews will be joining them as this publication goes to press. We very much appreciate our seasonal staff, and the fact that many come back year after year is testament to the fact that they, like our full-time staff, appreciate working for Vulcan County. This truly is a great place to be and work.

Heritage remains important to Council and as the Heritage Management Plan is receiving its final touches, ratepayers can expect to see policies put in place that will govern the management of our valuable historical resources and help to preserve them for future generations to enjoy.

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Community Standards

Vulcan County is looking for public feedback on a new Community Standards Bylaw. The purpose of the Bylaw is to promote public safety and liveability in the County, while respecting individuals' property ownership rights. There are a number of ways that you can give feedback on the Bylaw: review the draft and provide written comments, fill out the online survey (you will find a link on our website) or attend a public hearing (date will be advertised in the Vulcan Advocate in the coming weeks). Copies of the draft Bylaw are available for collection at the County office or can be viewed on the website. Thank you in advance for your help!

Agricultural Services News

Vulcan County Agricultural Services in conjunction with VAPPA (Vulcan Area Public & Petroleum Association) will be hosting their annual BBQ at the Vulcan Rodeo Grounds on **June 13th** between the hours of 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. We are moving this venue to the rodeo grounds to allow VAPPA the opportunity to carry out a mock wellhead strike demonstration, as well, we have invited both the oil and gas industry and the local agricultural businesses to attend



and provide a booth, equipment, or static display for the public. A complimentary Beef on a bun and refreshments will again be on the menu with the addition of local radio coverage from 99.7fm Sun Country. Please mark this date on your calendar; we look forward to seeing you.

Equipment rentals

Equipment rentals are ready to go for the 2014 season! We carry everything from grass

seeders to pipe-laying plows. Check out our list of rental equipment on our website. For more information please contact Terry at 403-485-5559.

Pesky Gophers

The 2% Liquid Strychnine gopher control program is underway with product available to all bona fide producers in Vulcan County. 2014 pricing for this product is \$7.50/bottle or \$180.00/case. This product will be available until the end of June. Call 403-485-3124 for further information.

Important Tax Information

The 2014 Combined Assessment and Property Tax notices will be mailed on Monday June 30, 2014. If your mailing address has changed in the last 12 months please contact us so that we can update our system before mailing out the notices.

Taxes are due on or before midnight, September 30, 2014.

Penalties of 3% are levied October 1, November 1, and December 1, on any outstanding current tax balance, with an overall 12% penalty applied on any outstanding balance on January 1.

Payments can be made by mail, in person at the Vulcan County Administration Office, online banking, or by telephone. You can pay using cash, cheque, direct deposit, credit card or sign up for our monthly pre-payment plan.

It is the property owner's responsibility to ensure that payments are received by Vulcan County prior to the September 30 deadline.

Should you have any questions please contact the Tax Roll Clerk on 403-485-2241.



Please visit **Vulcan County's website www.vulcancounty.ab.ca** for further information, and how to enrol in the **Tax Installment Payment Plan.**

Economic Development Officer - Vulcan Business Development Society

MacArthur pleased to join VBDS.

Hired as of March 31, Marilyn MacArthur is eager to get into the County and meet the communities. Currently, MacArthur is getting the office in order, and preparing the 2014/2015 Action Plan for VBDS.

"I'm keen to get into the smaller towns in Vulcan County, meet the Councils and community groups, and move some of our projects forward" she noted. The first Board meeting of the VBDS was held April 17th, and at that meeting it was clear that the Town, County and community members are eager to work with her.

"Whether it's post secondary education, attracting new residents, business and

investors, this area has so much to offer" she added" and VBDS wants to spread the word. The technology that this region is using, is linked to – makes it an ideal place to invest in. Our office is here to assist your community, your business to move forward or "Live Long and Prosper". As a business, that might be developing an affordable and useable mechanism to focus on staff training and customer service, effective methods of increasing in store traffic by developing a customer data base, expanding sales to a larger market, and succession planning.

Technology is a major advantage to business investing and locating here. Low cost of housing and land, access to fibre optic and wind generated electricity all present a compelling value statement to investors.

"Businesses coming here have access to a well educated workforce, good recreation opportunities with lakes, trails and clean air, and an entrepreneurial community who are moving forward, while honoring the heritage of the area" MacArthur adds.

Currently VBDS will continue to keep their website and facebook page updated, thanks to Charntelle Koch who has really gone the extra mile to keep digital media on everyone's minds. Preparing for the AGM in June, and working with the Board on policy and procedures will get us through the next few months. Watch for Marilyn MacArthur coming to your town soon!

You can contact the VBDS office at 403-485-4100 or email edo@vulcanbusiness.ca

Maps and contact information

Map Room

We are currently reconstructing our County Map Room, which will have Maps detailing information ranging from Public Works, Protective Services, Ag Services, the hamlets and villages and more.

VC Maps

For those of us who aren't aware yet, the county has a web-based map showing basic land parcel information as well as land use zoning.

Where is it? To locate VC Maps, you go to our website, hover over the RESIDENTS tab and click on VC Maps. This will take you to the disclaimer page, where at the bottom it asks for a username and password (ignore this). Above that, there is a picture that looks like



Click on it and it will take you to VC Maps. Or try this url: <http://www.vulcan.ca/vcmapoffice/>

Land Parcels

Using the tool bar, you can zoom in to the parcel of land you desire, or search by legal land location. Identifying the parcel gives you the roll number, linc number of the land title and the parcel's land area.

Land Use Zoning

If you go to the legends tab, there is a folder labelled 'Other'. Click on the arrow to give you access to the Land Use Zoning Layer. Checking this layer will give you the zoning of each property based on the legend colours.

Orthophoto (photos taken from the air)

If you go to the Legend tab, you can click on 2012 Orthophotos, which will give you our most recent images.

Assessment

This is in the works and will be available prior to this year's tax notices. This will be information tied in with the Parcel Layer. Not only will you see the Roll number, Linc and Legal; you will also be able to see assessment values of the parcel.

More Information

We will be placing a more detailed breakdown of VC Maps on the website, under our currently constructed Map Room.



Vulcan County
Ownership Maps
are produced
annually
each fall.

Vulcan County Early Childhood Development Coalition

The Early Childhood Development Mapping Initiative, led by Alberta Education, is a five-year research and community development activity that includes implementation of the Early Development Instrument in Kindergarten classes across the province.

The EDI instrument is a questionnaire that was completed by Kindergarten teachers in regards to 5 Developmental Areas: Physical Health and Well-being, Social Competence, Emotional Maturity, Language and Thinking Skills, Communication Skills and General Knowledge. Through the EDI survey, it has been discovered that 1 out of 4 (25%) Albertan children are struggling with basic tasks such as holding a crayon, following instructions, climbing stairs, etc.

Although the majority of children in Vulcan County are developing appropriately, a large percentage are experiencing difficulty or great difficulty in language and thinking skills (23.41%). Another part of the initiative is the socio-economic status of each community which has been collected for every community

in Alberta from the 2006 and 2011 census data provided by Statistics Canada.

Research has shown that the most critical period of time for brain development are those first years of a child's life. The brain is developing extremely rapidly during those early years and that is when the brain is most receptive to positive and negative influences. Research also shows that for every \$1 we spend in the early years of childhood development, it saves \$3 in spending for school-aged children and \$8 for adult education.

There has been a coalition formed called the Vulcan County Early Childhood Development Coalition. The goal of the Coalition is to promote the development of healthy kids and strong families in a nurturing family friendly community. We hope that through increased community support we can work together to increase our children's development. We are engaging amongst members of the community to identify the resources that are assets for early childhood development and what the community would like to see in the future to

help increase their child's development. We are always looking for new members to the coalition.

For more information:

www.ecdmapping.alberta.ca

Call Kim Daniells: 403-658-8105

E-mail: vulcan_eccoalition@hotmail.com



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mailing this publication
to you!

Sign up for the County News
by e-mail.

Drop a line to
news@vulcancounty.ab.ca



Twin Valley Campground

Vulcan County is excited to announce that the Twin Valley Campground is open for business! The campground is located midway between Hwy 2 and Hwy 22 on Hwy 529 and will be open from May 15th to October 1st, 2014. New this year for the campground will be horseshoe pits, bbq's and picnic tables, a shelter in the day use area and trees.

Available sites for the 2014 camping season:

- 15 Campsites with Power: \$20.00/night
 - 15 Campsite with no Power: \$15.00/night
- There is a self-registration box on site with registration envelopes for payment fees. Camping will be on a first come first served basis. For more information call 403-485-2241.

Happy Camping!



Emergency Contact Form

It's getting close to a year since we initially started asking people to fill out our emergency response contact forms. With about 25% of the residences in the county now updated with contact information that is made available to our emergency services, it is definitely a good start. With the start of wildfire season, here is an update concerning emergency response products we are creating with the information gathered:

The Emergency Services Map Book

This has now been created and is being distributed to emergency services for use in the event of a disaster, giving them the ability to contact residences potentially affected by it, as well as estimate the number of people being affected. It will also serve as a backup for when they are called by dispatch



should anything unforeseen happen with their internet/GPS connections.

Emergency Services Autodial Warning System

The County is working on obtaining grant funding for the implementation of this system by the end of 2014. This would enable our



emergency managers to send out a localized or county-wide warning to residence contacts simultaneously within the emergency area. The Emergency Contact Initiative has come

a long way since last year, but we still need the public's help in getting contact information and ensuring it is kept up to date. This is to ensure that the one time when it counts, the information is available and accurate for our emergency crews to get in touch with you.

We've sent an **Emergency Contact Form** with this newsletter. It's purely voluntary, but if you agree with our goal please fill it out. Let your neighbours know about it in case they haven't heard of it. With your help, we can empower our emergency crews to get to where they need to be and get the information out as fast as they can. The form can also be found in a fillable version on our website at <http://www.vulcancounty.ab.ca/content/emergency-contact>.

For further information on these initiatives please contact Odiri on 403-485-3110.

Gravel Sales

Vulcan County will be offering gravel for sale to ratepayers in 2014;

RATEPAYERS: \$6.00/tonne up to 200 tonnes

Over 200 tonnes \$12.00/tonne

COMMERCIAL: \$12.00/tonne.

TIMES: Tuesday & Wednesday Only

7:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Please contact the Vulcan County Office at 403-485-2241 or Vulcan County Shop at 403-485-3124 for gravel pit locations.



Bridge Repairs coming soon.

On June 21st 2013 flood events in Southern Alberta were causing widespread damage. While Vulcan County did not suffer losses as severe as our neighbors, personal property and infrastructure damage did occur.

One item of infrastructure that did see severe damage was Bridge Structure 0918 located on RGE RD 270 crossing the Little Bow River upstream of the Twin Valley Reservoir. Average water flow on the Little Bow at this location is approximately 6m² per second. It is estimated that during the peak of the flood event 155m² per second was flowing through this location. It is due to this exceptionally high water flow that Bridge File 0918 was lost.

Since the flood event Vulcan County has been working with the Alberta Governments Disaster Recovery Program to replace and restore infrastructure damaged during the flood event.

At the time of this writing engineering design for the new 40m Bridge Structure has been completed and final review is underway by Alberta Transportation. Once final design approval has been given by Alberta Transportation, the project will go to tender. Vulcan County has every intention of having this project completed as soon as possible. Total construction costs are estimated at \$1.3 million, which are completely funded through the Provincial Disaster Recovery Program.