

TOWN OF STRASBOURG NEWSLETTER



Volume 7 / Issue 2

April – June 2020

FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR'S DESK – COVID-19 EDITION

There is lots of information to share within this newsletter, so I hope everyone reads it thoroughly. With the advent of the COVID-19 pandemic, we as the Town have had to make a few changes to our operations, and we continue to monitor and adjust our operations as new information comes forward from higher levels of government.

- 1) **MEMORIAL HALL CLOSURE** - The Strasbourg Memorial Hall is closed to the public until further notice. Re-opening will depend on the Provincial Government's directives as to when recreational facilities can be open again.
- 2) **TOWN OFFICE CLOSURE** - Our Town Office is currently closed to the public. There are staff members within the Office during business hours to answer the phone and e-mails, and to carry on with Town business. Since the Office is closed to the public, we have several ways to make payments for all types of bills, which are listed on the next page of the newsletter.
- 3) **ADJUSTED PUBLIC WORKS DUTIES** - Our Public Works staff are still performing their essential duties, but social distancing is of utmost importance. They will not be allowed to attend your property if something arises, such as sewer backups. There have been reports of other communities experiencing a rise in sewer backups because of toilet paper shortages. People have begun flushing paper towels, disposable wipes, cloths, etc. into the sewer system causing expensive and damaging blockages. As a Town, we cannot stress this enough: **Please Do Not Do This**. Take the time to throw out anything that is not toilet paper, and save yourself and the Town the headache and the expense.
- 4) **VIRTUAL COUNCIL MEETINGS** - Our Council meetings for the foreseeable future will be done virtually, each in our own homes on the Zoom video conferencing platform. We are committed to carrying out the duties of the Town, but it has to be done in a safe way. Since we are meeting virtually, if delegations are needed, they will be given an invite to the Zoom meeting. If anyone is wanting to sit in on the meetings, they can be given an invite to the meeting as well, but otherwise, we will record the meetings and post to the website for viewing the next day. Usually meeting minutes are approved at the subsequent meeting and are not posted on the website until then. In an attempt for transparency, I will post a draft version of the minutes as soon as I am able on the website for viewing. However just remember, these are not final, approved minutes.
- 5) **MAY TRANSFER STATION BRANCH WEEKENDS** - We will be opening the Town's transfer station in May on Saturdays for branches and yard waste only. However, we will be **POSTPONING** the Free Transfer Station Weekend that is typically held on the May Long Weekend. This is the weekend where garbage and other refuse can be taken to the Town's transfer station for free. We are committed to holding the Free Transfer Station Weekend as it is widely appreciated by the community, but we have to consider the safety of our Public Works staff, as well as the community's safety.
- 6) **E-NOTICES** - We are strongly encouraging residents to sign up to receive their tax, utility, and accounts receivable bills electronically. Not only does the Town save on postage, but it is currently a safer method than picking up and handling mail at the Post Office. The last page of the newsletter has the E-mail Consent Form to fill out. You can scan and e-mail it back to us, or drop it off in our lockbox.

- 7) **CAMPGROUND/TOT PARK** - While it is hard to “close” a park, the Tot Park located beside the Home is closed. As well, the Town is asking that you do not attend the school playground, even though it is not a Town-owned facility. There will also be no camping in the Lions Park for the foreseeable future.
- 8) **SAMA REINSPECTION** - You probably received a letter in the mail a few weeks ago from the Saskatchewan Assessment Management Agency (SAMA). Please fill out the information to the best of your ability regarding your property. The reinspection by SAMA employees has now been delayed until later this year, provided the pandemic situation has changed.
- 9) **FINANCIAL HELP** - Council understands that this may be a difficult time financially for some. We are encouraging you to reach out to the Town Office if you need to make a payment plan for your utility bills and your taxes (which will be levied in June, but not due until December 31), and we can figure out something that works for you. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us.

The Town also wants to remind you that Provincial Government law supersedes Municipal law. The directives that you see from the Provincial Government must be heeded and we as a municipality cannot contravene or alter those decisions. During this particular crisis, we must follow what our higher levels of government are telling us all, especially when it comes to issues like what businesses are supposed to close, or how to report quarantine/self-isolation non-compliance, etc.

As information changes, the Town will notify you as best we can. We post our notices on our website, Facebook page, and up on the Post Office bulletin board. If you know of a neighbour, friend, or family member who does not use Facebook or the web and may be isolating, we encourage you to reach out to them (by phone or other social distancing methods) to pass along any news that might be of relevance to them. From a humanitarian perspective, just reach out in general! It is a difficult time we are all facing, and knowing that as a community we are all actively supporting one another will make a world of difference as we move through the next few months together.

Jenn Josephson
Administrator

PAYMENT OPTIONS DURING OFFICE CLOSURE

There are a variety of ways to make payments for various Town-related charges (utility, tax, business licenses, dog licenses, etc.) while the Town Office is not open to the public.

1. Mail in a cheque.
2. **NEW** - Drop a cheque or cash off (in a labeled envelope) at the Town Office lockbox which is located outside by the front door under the RCMP sign. The lockbox is secure and checked frequently by Town Office staff.
3. Online banking payment with RBC, all Credit Unions, BMO, TD, and CIBC (Scotiabank not included). **This method is for Utility and Tax payments only.** To set up your online banking, your utility account number and tax roll number (which are found on your bills) function as the banking account number. There are two accounts which have to be set up separately – Town of Strasbourg Utility and Town of Strasbourg Tax. Do not add zeros to the beginning of the account number. Some financial institutions require more digits, so you may need to add zeros at the end of the account number to make it work. Your financial institution will be able to help you set these up if you have trouble.
4. Phone in a credit card number for us to process.
5. **NEW** - Interac e-Transfer
 1. Send e-Transfers to the Town’s email address: strasbourg@sasktel.net
 2. In the “Messages” field of your e-Transfer, you MUST include:
 - Civic Address
 - Invoice number (if applicable)
 - What you are paying: Taxes, Utility, Dog License, Business License, Building Permit, etc.





OPERATION BIRTHDAY CANDLE

DO YOU HAVE A CHILD AGED 1 THROUGH 9 THAT IS CELEBRATING A BIRTHDAY, BUT CANNOT HAVE THEIR FRIENDS OVER DUE TO SOCIAL DISTANCING?

STRASBOURG & DISTRICT FIRE & RESCUE WOULD LIKE TO HELP THEM CELEBRATE BY SENDING OUT A FIRE TRUCK WITH LIGHTS ON AND DROPPING OFF A PRESENT FOR YOUR CHILD ON THEIR SPECIAL DAY.

PLEASE MESSAGE THE SDFR ON **FACEBOOK** OR BY EMAIL AT **SDFR@SASKTEL.NET** WITH THE CHILD'S NAME, BIRTHDATE, AGE, LOCATION, AND PHONE NUMBER

AVAILABLE TO ANYONE IN THE SDFR FIRE SERVICES AREA (STRASBOURG, BULYEA, ISLAND VIEW, GLEN HARBOUR, SUNSET COVE, RM 220, & RM 250)

DISCLAIMER: DUE TO AVAILABLE RESOURCES, THE SDFR MAY NOT BE ABLE TO ATTEND ON REQUESTED DATE

SPRING 2020 TOWN YARD WASTE WEEKENDS

Town of Strasbourg Residents Only

Town Transfer Station located 1 mile north of Golf Course

Saturdays in May
May 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, & 30th
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

- **Please note:** The Town will NOT be having the free garbage weekend in May due to Covid-19 safety concerns. Town will host at a later date.
- You will be required to unload the branches yourself as Public Works cannot assist. Only one vehicle will be allowed in the transfer station at a time.
- Only branches, leaves, and grass clippings accepted.
- Bagged leaves and grass will have to be opened and emptied into pit, as plastic cannot be burned.
- Transfer Station will be manned by Public Works during the times listed above, and all loads will be inspected.

2020 FIRE CALL-OUT INSURANCE INCREASE REMINDER

Just a reminder that the fire call-out insurance rates have increased. Since the Town of Strasbourg has a volunteer fire department, call-out fees are charged when the volunteers respond to a call.

While insurance is always optional, it is strongly recommended that you check your current house or business insurance policy to make sure that it **contains an endorsement for firefighting call-out fee coverage with these increased rates.**

Fire Call-Out Fees

\$5,000.00 for the first 3 hours
\$1,500.00 for every additional hour

False Alarm Fees

First incident - written warning
Subsequent incidents - \$500.00

SPRINGTIME REMINDERS

QUADDING/DIRTBIKING – Driving quads and dirt bikes around Town is prohibited. The Town allows them to be driven only if you are taking a direct route in and out of Town – i.e., travelling to and from your home. Please be respectful of driving them on both public and private property, including fields adjacent to Town, Town parks and empty lots, the golf course, and ball diamonds. Also please be considerate of the noise and the time of night they are being driven.

PICKING UP AFTER DOGS – Please keep our Town clean by picking up after your pets. We pride ourselves on a beautiful community and we want to keep it that way.

BLOWING GRASS ONTO STREET – Soon the grass will green up and we will be cutting our lawns. Please refrain from blowing grass clippings onto the street, as the grass clogs our drains during a rainstorm.

“HANDYMAN” SERVICES

A common request within the Town Office has been people looking for others to do “Handyman” work. It seems to be a void that needs to be filled, especially with an aging population in our community. While the Town cannot vouch for any particular person and their skills/abilities, we are encouraging those who would like to “hang out their handyman shingle” to make themselves known through their own independent advertising. Like all home-based businesses, it will require a license from the Town. However, we wanted to put forward that this is common requested need within the community. (However, right now please adhere to social distancing rules!)



EMAIL CONSENT FORM

*In an effort to reduce postage and printing costs, the **Town of Strasbourg** offers residents the opportunity to receive specific municipal notices as attachments in an e-mail rather than by regular mail.*

Consent to the use of e-mail for the delivery of municipal notices includes agreement with the following:

1. Failure to receive an e-mailed municipal notice does not release me from my responsibility to pay any charges specified on the notice, or any penalties which may be incurred by late payment.
2. I will inform the Town of Strasbourg of any change in my e-mail address as soon as possible, to prevent the misdirection of notices and reduce the risk of my not receiving a notice.
3. I may withdraw from e-mail delivery at any time. To do so I will inform the Town of Strasbourg, and all notices which were previously e-mailed to me will be sent by regular mail.

CUSTOMER ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND CONSENT

Customer name _____

Customer mailing address _____

Customer phone number _____

Customer e-mail address _____

I acknowledge that I have read and fully understand this document, and consent to the delivery of specific municipal notices from the Town of Strasbourg to me by e-mail.

Customer signature _____ Date _____

Transmitting information by e-mail has a number of risks that residents should be aware of. These include, but are not limited to, the following:

- E-mail can be circulated, forwarded, and stored in numerous paper and electronic files.
- E-mail can be immediately broadcast worldwide and be received by many intended and unintended recipients.
- E-mail senders can easily misaddress an email.
- E-mail is easier to falsify than handwritten or signed documents.
- Backup copies of e-mail may exist even after the sender or the recipient has deleted their copy.
- E-mail can be intercepted, altered, forwarded, or used without authorization or detection.
- E-mail can be used to introduce viruses into computer systems.
- E-mail can be used as evidence in court.

The Town of Strasbourg will use reasonable means to protect the security and confidentiality of e-mail information sent and received. However, because of the risks outlined above, the municipality cannot guarantee the security and confidentiality of e-mail communication, and will not be liable for improper disclosure of confidential information. For this reason, the customer must consent to the use of e-mail for delivery of municipal notices.

Please return signed sheet to the Town Office.

You can either drop it off in the outside lockbox, email strasbourg@sasktel.net, fax (306) 725-3613, or mail to Box 369, Strasbourg, SK S0G 4V0