

NEWSLETTER

COUNCIL MEETINGS:

Council Highlights from Council Meetings: October 30, November 9 & 27, 2023

NEXT Regular Meeting (note time change)
December 21 @ 4 pm
2024 Meeting Schedule:
January 15 @ 1pm
February 5 & 26 @ 1pm
March 18 @ 1pm
April 8 & 29 @ 1 pm
May 13 @ 1pm
June 10 @ 1pm
July 22 @ 1pm
August 12 @ 1 pm
September 9 & 23 @ 1 pm
October 21 @ 1 pm preceded by Organizational Meeting at 10 am.

- Marianne Prockiw-Zarusky was appointed as Deputy Mayor.
- Check out smokylake.ca/council-committees-2016-2017/ for Council Appointments to Committees, Commissions and Boards.
- The 2024 Capital Budget in the amount of \$361,250.00 and \$1,154,000.00 for replacement of the Water Reservoir, was approved. 75% of the Water Reservoir replacement is covered by the \$3,462,000.00 Alberta Municipal Water/Wastewater Partnership grant we received.
- The 2024 Operating Budget in the amount of \$4,178,680.22 for both revenue and expenses was approved.
- A 2% increase in the Tax Rate for the 2024 Tax Year was approved to build reserves. In comparison with similar sized municipalities, this is a very conservative increase.
- The Minimum Tax Rate was increased from \$400.00 to \$600.00.
- Town of Smoky Lake received a \$15,000.00 Clean Energy Community Fund Grant from ATCO to retrofit the Town Office to improve energy efficiency.
- 15-minute "loading zone" parking signs will be installed on the West Side of the new Daycare building on White Earth Street.

- Town of Smoky Lake will apply for the following grants:
 - Northern & Regional Economic Development for the Smoky Lake Wayfinding Project (town signage)
 - Alberta's Public Land Trails for maintenance of the Town Trails
 - A grant to fund a re-design of the staging area in Smoky Lake for the Iron Horse Trail.
- A thank you letter was requested to be sent to the Family of George Gavinchuk for the loan of historical artifacts on display at the CN Station.
- Admin was requested to provide additional options to recognize Jim Ratsoy's \$100,000 donation towards the CN Station refurbishment project.

For full agendas and meeting minutes, visit: smokylake.ca > TOWN OFFICE menu.

Also under the same menu, check out the recently approved Bylaws/Policies:

Land Use Bylaw Amendment for Small Homes & Hens: now approved for Smoky Lake.

Animal Control changes: Licensing now based on dog behaviour rather than breed.

Policy A-14-2023 Honourariums, Per Diems & Expenses.



Council approved a \$240.00 donation to the 2023 Smoky Lake Christmas Hamper Program.

Watch for the final tally for the year of 2023 in our January Newsletter.



AVOID THAT BIG TAX BILL IN AUGUST!

Sign up for the Tax Installment Payment Plan for 2024!

Pre-authorized debits in the amount of the previous years taxes divided into 12 monthly installments are paid on the last day of each month beginning with January 31, 2024. In June, the monthly payment will be adjusted to reflect the actual taxes owing for that year. Please complete the Pre-authorized Tax Payment Plan Application form by January 24, 2024 and submit it to the Town office.

* TAX REMINDER *

An 18% penalty will be applied to all outstanding taxes on January 1, 2024. Payments can be made through online banking, at the Town office or at the bank. During Christmas Holidays, payments can be placed in the drop box located outside the Town Office.



FAMILY & COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES



RURAL CONNECTIONS FAMILY RESOURCE NETWORK

FREE RESOURCES • EASILY ACCESSIBLE • FAMILY SERVICES

Healthy Families Healthy Futures: 780-307-2444

HFHF provides **free** in-home visitations services. Trained Home Visitors encourage a caregiver-led experience while providing recommendations based on leading practices. They work with families with children aged **0-6 years of age**.

HFHF Home Visitors provide free one-on-one parenting strategies to:

- Promote positive parent-child relationships;
- Grow parenting knowledge and skills;
- Foster healthy pregnancies and child development;
- Help families identify and access formal and informal supports and services;
- Assist in the identification and pursuit of family goals



WJS Canada: 1-800-867-1987

WJS provides **free** in-home visitations services. Trained Home Visitors provide families with tools to help increase family abilities to manage day-to-day parental stressors and enhance each family's ability to care for their children. They work with families with children aged **7-18 years of age**.



WJS Home Visitors provide free one-on-one parenting strategies to:

- Healthy Relationships; parent-teen mediation
- Attachment; enhancing family connection
- Positive Discipline; positive strategies with difficult behaviors', sibling rivalry, youth behavioral issues
- Mentoring and Youth Development
- Life Skills; communication skills, conflict resolution, co-parenting

Smoky Lake FRN Team: 780-656-3674

The local Smoky Lake FRN team supports families with **free** child, youth, and family services programs. They work with families with children aged **0-18 years of age**.



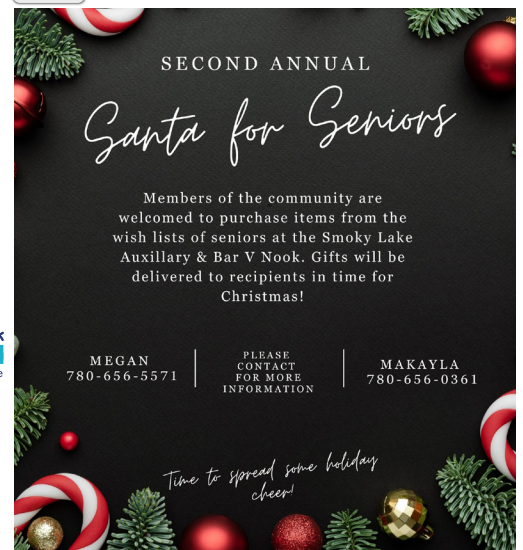
Smoky Lake FRN provides free caregiver and child capacity development programs and services:

- System Navigation Support; referrals to other resources or supports
- Strengthen parent and child interaction
- Enhance parenting skills
- Promote healthy child and youth development
- Build family supports within the community

smokylakefcss.ca

All Library EVENTS are FREE with no registration required unless otherwise specified.

- SAT Christmas Farmers Markets**
Complex: Saturdays 10:00 am - noon
- MON "Hygge" (Coziness)**
Library: Mondays in December
Christmas Ambiance: dimmed lights, soft music, curl up with a good book and a warm drink!
- TUE Teen Craft Club**
Library: Dec. 5 & 12 - 3:30-5:00 pm
Learn a new craft every month!
- WED Storytime**
Library: Dec. 6 & 13 - 10:30-11:30 am
Caregivers & Kids 0-5
- WED After School Programs**
Library: Dec. 6 & 13 - 3:30-4:30 pm
Grades 1-3 (Programmer will pick up at school)
- THU After School Programs**
Library: Dec 7 & 14 - 3:30-4:30 pm
Grades 4 - 7
- 23rd Library Closed**
December 23rd through January 2nd.
Back to normal hours January 3rd, 2024
- 15th Food Basket Pickup Day**
Anderson's Grocery
All residents, Smoky Lake Region
- 15th Christmas Hamper Sign-up Deadline**
If in need of a hamper call 780-656-2174
All residents, Smoky Lake County
- 21st Coffee With A Cop**
Iron Horse Cafe, Waskatenau
10:00-11:00 am *All residents, SL Region*
- 21st Regular Council Meeting**
Town Office, 4:00 pm Start



SECOND ANNUAL
Santa for Seniors

Members of the community are welcomed to purchase items from the wish lists of seniors at the Smoky Lake Auxillary & Bar V Nook. Gifts will be delivered to recipients in time for Christmas!

MEGAN 780-656-5571 | PLEASE CONTACT FOR MORE INFORMATION | MAKAYLA 780-656-0361

Time to spread some holiday cheer!