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Article by Doug Griffiths

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A Newsletter to the Citizens of Carmangay and Area

Upcoming Events

17 July

FCSS and Library Summer camp and Water Challenge

July 26

After dark - Library outdoor movie night outside the Seniors'

3 August

Agricultural Society Summer Fair and Firemans BBQ

4 August

Fair Days

Lions pancake breakfast

Fire Hall bell ringing from 11am - 3pm

Ag Society Summer Parade

Camp Carmangay Barn dance

August 21

FCSS Family Block Party - pot luck
6 - 9:30 PM

Council Update

A Look Back : Recent Highlights

Whitney Street was next in-line for a sewer replacement like Elmore Street which cost approx \$800,000. After a comprehensive investigation, the clay pipes were found to be in excellent condition and replacement was not necessary. A recognised company conducted the investigation and with specialised equipment cleaned and cut tree roots from inside the pipes for a total cost of under \$7,000. The video of the cleaned pipes is available at the village office.

EDF donated a wind turbine blade to the village of carmangay in 2014. Council has created an Ad-hoc committee to address the long term plans for the blade. The Ad-hoc committee provided recommendations to council. Village administration is in the process of providing costs to the Ad Hoc Committee to move the blade to the village camp ground or village owned land north of the Grange and west side of Pacific Ave.

Council passed a new Strategic Plan that is a live document intended to set the direction for the future of Carmangay. The 5 objectives outlined in the Strategic Plan are defined as:

A big thank you to Todd McFarland for creating and maintaining the 3.4km nature walk that is enjoyed by many. The village will be taking over the maintenance of the trail, Input from volunteers is welcome.

Market all Village owned residential and commercial lots in a manner that enhances the community and promotes the sustainability of the environment.

Develop and create a synergy in the downtown (Carman Street and Grand Ave) with the existing and intended businesses.

Execute the Village portion of the future plans for the blade and site at the time that is decided.

Carmangay will govern in compliance of the new MGA and maintain its infrastructure and systems to the benefit of the citizen of the Village.

Create, define and communicate a portfolio of opportunities people coming to the Village of Carmangay may enjoy.

Maintain or reduce the average residential tax bill over the term of the current Council.





(Doug Griffiths is president of 13 Ways Inc., a company he founded to provide consultation to struggling North American communities. He is a public speaker and co-author of the book *13 Ways to Kill Your Community*, and is an instructor with the Executive Education program at the U of A School of Business. Griffiths is a former MLA representing the constituency of Battle River-Wainwright as a Progressive Conservative. He has served as Minister of Alberta Municipal Affairs, among many other roles. For further information, view the website www.13ways.ca)

A battle is brewing with your town's FEARS

(This article has been reprinted with the gracious permission of Doug Griffiths.)

There is a new threat to our communities, and it turns out to be the evillest of the lot.

We are all familiar with the NIMBYs (Not In My Backyard) and the NOPEs (Not On Planet Earth). I've come up with the BANANAs (Build Absolutely Nothing Anywhere Near Anything) and the CAVEs (Citizens Against Virtually Everything). The new threat is what I call FEARS: Fire-up Everyone Against Reasonable Solutions. FEARS rage against ideas and people with tirades of false information and outright lies. They base everything on emotion, not facts or information, and they singularly focus on driving everyone they can reach into a frenzy of irrationality and rage that is not just intended to defeat an initiative, but to destroy it.

I experienced FEARS as a politician when I received a death threat, not to me but to my sons, during a shortage of vaccines several years ago. I still remember the voice on my phone: "If my kid gets sick because there isn't enough vaccine then I'm going to hurt your kids." The rhetoric these days is intended to incite frenzied, irrational, and violent behavior. Donald Trump is a perfect example of ridiculous comments intended to deliberately stir up anger in people. That anger leads to irrationality, and then to violence from both sides, as the hateful rhetoric grows. The cost of that anger to communities and society is high, yet people keep buying it. People seem to like the energy that come with rage and anger. They seem to be drawn to the feeling that their situation isn't their fault, and to the belief that they have a right to be angry and focus their rage on someone else.

It takes a lot of hard work to stay calm, and to focus on reasonable solutions. It is much easier to believe that everyone has an ulterior motive and is trying to hurt you. Those who seek solutions are often quiet after they see unreserved displays of anger and rage at public meetings. They see people getting personally attacked with slander and lies, so they stay in their seats and hope someone else stands up. Fear, and the FEARS that spread with it, win when that happens. What they are doing is social terrorism. They want you to be afraid, and to be quiet. They want the rage to take over the room, but that only happens when no one speaks rationally anymore. That is social terrorism, and terrorism cannot be allowed to win. Anger and rage can't be allowed to win over rational thought.

The only way to beat it is with a vigorous plan that doesn't allow the social terrorists - the FEARS - to get a footing. It means recognizing the potential for the FEARS to strike at any time, and having a communication strategy early in the process that can minimize the fear they try to spread. It resembles a war footing. We need to keep the solution-oriented voices of reason armed and brave, and ready to take on those bullies who feed on fear. We need to draw others back into reasonable, considerate debate. I don't know that we can guarantee beating them every time, but we know how dangerous it is when FEARS aren't taken seriously in the beginning. If we let the fear and hate they create grow and take us over, then they win. And if they win, our communities suffer, our humanity suffers, and all progress is lost. Don't let fear paralyze you and your community. Don't let the FEARS take hold.

Council passed both the Operational Budget as well as the 3 year Operational Plan. The 3 Year Operational Plan is a requirement of the new Municipal Government Act. The Operational Budget maintained the same tax rate as last year resulting in lower or unchanged residential tax bills for most homeowners.

Frequently asked questions

Does Council oversee any employees?

Section 153 of the Municipal Government Act defines that Council only oversees one employee which is the CAO. Council can only hire or fire the CAO.

How does Council make decisions?

Councillors are also free to have conversations with the public or each other at any time. Council only make decisions though in a Regular or Special Meeting of Council by a motion. Motions are directions to staff that may also include budgets, policies or bylaws. Section 153 of the MGA allows Council to request information from staff at any time and responses are directed back to all Councillors.

Why is Carmangay sharing resources with Champion?

The provincial government is encouraging cooperation of neighbouring communities to find synergies and cost savings. A number of processes have been identified in the

A Look Ahead

Council is looking forward to hearing from you about the upcoming Municipal Development Plan. The MDP is a requirement of the new Municipal Government Act and sets the future planning for the Village. Council will be gathering input for Carmangay citizens this summer to provide input into this statutory document.



Mayor Stacey Hovde
Deputy Mayor Joanne Juce
Councillor Peggy Hovde

CAO Heather O'Halloran
Deputy CAO Patrick Bergen
Public Works John "Tex" Skinner

Admin@villageofcarma.ca

403 643 3595

Look for us on Facebook at:

<http://Facebook.com/VillageofCarmangay>

<http://VillageOfCarmangay.ca>

Did You Know?

Toilets are not trash compactors, and don't "swallow" whatever you flush down them. Seemingly harmless items can make their way into the toilet and cause problems, both for your own sewer pipes, and for the Village sewer system.

So to help save pipes and wallets, here are some things you should never flush down your toilet:

Flushable or baby wipes. "Flushable" and baby wipes can be incorrectly labeled, and not all will disintegrate in water as quickly as toilet paper does. They can lodge in sewer pipes and clog your toilet, or get jammed in main sewer lines, causing major and costly blockages. We will be telling you more about these "fatbergs" later this year.

Phones! Hear the sound of your smartphone getting stuck in the bathroom plumbing? If someone flushes a cellphone down the toilet, you'll probably need to call the plumber. The issue is more common than you might think. A study from 2011 estimated that 19 % of people have dropped their phone in the toilet.

Condoms. Condoms will clog your toilet, and should be disposed of in the trash, especially because most are not biodegradable.

Dental Floss. Tossing dental floss in the toilet seems harmless, but floss is not usually biodegradable and will bunch up in your pipes, causing clogs.



Message from council

"We are thrilled to be elected as your council. We want to see our community grow and we strive hard to ensure our community is a safe and welcoming village. We want to help local businesses, if you would like to promote your business with us, let us know. We look forward to keeping you up to date in our Fall edition, enjoy your summer".

*Stacey, JoAnne &
Peggy*

COMING SOON

*Look for a
Community Survey
for
the Village of Carmangay
and Area
for a
Community Needs
Assessment
and
Municipal Development Plan
Input*