



ELECTORAL AREA UPDATE

AREA F | COOMBS | HILLIERS | ERRINGTON

ISSUE 21 • SPRING 2018

VOLUNTEER WEEK

In April, we celebrated National Volunteer Week at the RDN. Thank you to our volunteers who help generously by providing their time and energy, such as maintaining our parks & trails, shaping regional growth, assisting local community groups, protecting our water supply and those that help during emergencies. Your efforts are sincerely appreciated in the RDN.

Director, Julian Fell



The NEPP program will include online information, networking opportunities, and peer-to-peer support as well as handouts and workshops delivered by the regional emergency services team. Get prepared and consider starting or joining a neighbourhood program!

Watch for the new Neighbourhood Emergency Preparedness project to launch later this month on www.getinvolved.rdn.ca. Register and get involved!

Gathering Events in the ALR

In 2016, the Agricultural Land Commission introduced a new use in the Agricultural Land Reserve called gathering for events. The intent is to allow farmers to hold events, such as weddings and parties, to supplement their farm income. Due to



Regional Growth Strategy

A limited review of the Regional Growth Strategy (RGS) will be starting later this year by the RDN. The review will focus on a few policies related to sewer and water services that have proven to be unclear or that potentially conflict with other RGS policies. Also included in the review will be an update of population and development forecasts.

For more information on the RGS please see the web page at www.rdn.bc.ca/regional-growth-strategy.



concerns brought forth by some members of the agricultural community, the RDN has adopted zoning regulations for the siting and parking for these events. The RDN will also be producing information for farmers who hold events and for their neighbours. The RDN will also be considering the use of a permitting system to ensure that events are carried out with consideration for the environment and neighbours.

For further information, please visit the RDN's Get Involved web page at www.getinvolved.rdn.ca/ALR.

Development Permit Area Review and Update

The RDN is reviewing development permit areas (DPAs) and temporary use permit areas (TUPs) in electoral areas. This project will include a revision of existing DPA guidelines and TUP areas for consistency and standardization in order to streamline the development process. We want your input!

Find out more on our Get Involved RDN page at www.getinvolved.rdn.ca/DPAs.

Neighbourhood Emergency Preparedness

Our Emergency Services department is working on simplifying the Neighbourhood Emergency Preparedness Program (NEPP) to align more with the PreparedBC program. The revised NEPP program is designed to encourage residents to first ensure they have their personal and household preparedness plans in place, and then to reach out to their neighbours and work together to broaden their resilience in the event of an emergency.

This update is intended for residents in RDN Electoral Area F. Overlapping postal routes could result in some adjacent electoral area residents receiving this newsletter. We hope you find the content of interest.

highlights

- * Fire Services Update
- * Area F OCP
- * Gathering Events in the ALR

THIS NEWSLETTER IS PRINTED ON 100% POST-CONSUMER RECYCLED PAPER.



Area F Building Statistics

Electoral Area Building Permits for 2017			
Electoral Area	# of Permits	Construction Value (\$M)	New Housing Units
F	109	18.6	30

Electoral Area Building Permits for Jan-Mar 2018			
Electoral Area	# of Permits	Construction Value (\$M)	New Housing Units
F	26	5.7	9



Area F OCP

A review of the Electoral Area F Official Community Plan is scheduled to begin this fall. The current OCP was adopted in 1999 and, with the significant amount of development that has occurred over the past 19 years, a review of the OCP is needed to ensure that it is still meeting the needs of the community. Announcements about the process and community engagement will be made this summer.

Fire Services Update

Following the RDN Fires Services Review in 2016, the RDN has hired a Fire Services Coordinator to work with Volunteer Fire Departments to standardize training, record keeping, apparatus, operational guidelines, mutual aid agreements and other operational functions. This is to bring all into compliance with recent, provincially imposed requirements for safety and competency under WorkSafeBC regulations and Firefighters

Playbook. This will also realize cost and inter-department operation efficiencies.

Coombs-Hilliars has recently taken delivery of a new engine for frontline Service. Errington expects delivery of two new engines in September. The current frontline engines have reached their 20 year time limit and their certification is expiring. The new engines cost \$650,000 each. Half the cost is covered by equipment reserves collected in advance but half will be paid with borrowed funds through the RDN Finance Dept. With a 5-year repayment period, residences in the Errington Fire Service will see a Fire Service cost increase of about \$70. Although significant for the next 5 years, Errington Fire Service residents do enjoy a significant reduction in fire insurance cost due to the "equivalent to hydrants" status that the EVFD has achieved since 2005.



District 69 Recreation Services Master Plan

The RDN initiated the development of an updated Recreation Services Master Plan for District 69 (Oceanside) in the fall of 2016. The Master Plan will be a strategic document used in mapping out the future provision of recreation services in District 69 for the years 2019 - 2029. Public engagement to date has included input from 1,687 residents via a community survey, interview and discussion sessions with participants representing over 30 various community organizations and a community group questionnaire completed by 60 organizations. As well, five community open houses occurred throughout Oceanside near the end of 2017. The final draft Master Plan was presented to the RDN Board and District 69 Recreation Commission in April.

www.getinvolved.rdn.ca

Get Involved RDN!

UPCOMING EVENTS AND ENGAGEMENT

Starting this month, look for our monthly RDN Updates in the Nanaimo News Bulletin, the Parksville Qualicum Beach News and the Gabriola Souther to find out about upcoming events, projects and community meetings.

You can also keep up-to-date by following us on Facebook and Twitter, visiting our website homepage & calendar and by signing up to Get Involved RDN at www.getinvolved.rdn.ca.

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