

Fruitvale & Area A News

December 2020

Keeping the Community Informed



LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONTACT INFORMATION



VILLAGE OF FRUITVALE

1947 Beaver Street
Fruitvale, BC V0G 1L0
Ph: 250-367-7551
Fax: 250-367-9267

Public Works &
After Hours Emergencies:
250-367-6162

General Email

info@village.fruitvale.bc.ca

Web

www.village.fruitvale.bc.ca

Facebook

Village of Fruitvale



REGIONAL DISTRICT OF KOOTENAY BOUNDARY

202 - 843 Rossland Ave
Trail, BC V1R 4S8
Ph: 250-368-9148

General Email

RDKB email addresses are
most often [first initial, last
name@rdkb.com](mailto:first initial, last name@rdkb.com)
(For example Joe Smith would
be jsmith@rdkb.com)

Web

www.rdkb.com

Area 'A' Director Ali Grieve
aligrieve@telus.net

BEAVER VALLEY HAMPER PROGRAM



The United Way of Trail & District is pleased to announce that the Beaver Valley Food Action Initiative" (BVFAI) is once again preparing Christmas food hampers for 2020. All residents of the Beaver Valley (Montrose, Area "A" RDKB and Fruitvale) living on low income are eligible for a Christmas Hamper.

Applications are available at Liberty Foods, Fruitvale and Montrose Village Offices, Beaver Valley Food Bank and the United Way website. **The deadline to return a completed application form is December 4, 2020.** Pick up will take place on Tuesday, December 15 at the Fruitvale Memorial Centre entrance. While shopping at Liberty Foods, please consider purchasing a pre-packaged non-perishable food bag.

If you have been an annual donor to the former "Fruitvale Community Chest" and wish to continue to support the Hamper program and future BVFAI programs, please contact Naomi McKimmie at the United Way office (250-364-0999 or naomi@uwtraildistrict.org) and she will be happy to assist you with ensuring your donation continues to stay local by adding your name to our new BVFAI Campaign mailing list. You may also donate at www.uwtraildistrict.org (in the comment box of the donation form just write "Beaver Valley" or "BV", this will let them know that you want your donation to stay in the Beaver Valley). Thank you for your support and generosity for those less fortunate.

GIFTS FOR CHILDREN

The Beaver Valley Hamper Program invites you to participate in the annual Gifts for Children. Tags for children's gifts (ages 0-13 years) can be found on the beautiful trees inside Kootenay Savings Credit Union Fruitvale Branch (Monday and Fridays from 10:00am - 3:00pm and the Fruitvale Post Office. **Deadline to return the unwrapped gifts (gift bags are accepted) to the location where the tag was picked up is December 11, 2020.** Please ensure to attach the tag to the gift.



Thank you to our residents for your generosity and support to help every member in our community have a joyous Christmas. **Christmas food hamper pick-up is on Tuesday December 15, 2020** at the Fruitvale Memorial Centre. Please ensure to bring your identification (BC ID/BC Care Card).

For further information on the two above programs, please contact Naomi McKimmie at 250-364-0999 during regular office hours, Monday to Thursday from 9:00am to 4:00pm.

COVID-19 HAS NOT DISAPPEARED!

Please continue to practise safe distancing, wash and sanitize hands, wear a face covering, stay home when you're sick or feeling unwell, and stay within your bubble.

BE KIND, BE CALM, BE SAFE



Mayor's Message

I hope December finds us all healthy and happy. This holiday season is going to be vastly different as we continue to make the choices to keep others safe, and in turn, ourselves. All Village and BV Recreation Christmas activities are cancelled, things like the annual Craft Fair, Candy Cane Lane, the Seniors' and Children's Christmas light tours, Santa's Breakfast, and the Jingle Express Train rides. These fun activities where we can gather and celebrate will be missed but they do not define Christmas. Christmas is a time of hope, a time of giving and a time to support others. This year there will be more loneliness and need than in any year in our lifetimes. Please be mindful and attentive so you do not miss the signs that someone you know is down, lonely or struggling; be it a neighbour, a friend, a co-worker, a relative, anyone. A small random act of kindness may be all they need to know someone cares, to pick them up and keep them going. When you notice someone out of sorts, step out of your comfort zone and ask them if they are OK, do whatever you are comfortable with to make their day better. Help to make it a Merry Christmas for everyone.

As council passes the two year, halfway point in our term, we continue to try to do our best to communicate with residents, to initiate projects that will help our tax base, things like the former BVMS school site housing development which will add many taxpayers to share the tax burden and support our school and businesses. We have developed a Haines Park masterplan that will make the park a recreation site with more to offer than two or three months of use for ball. We are working on a potential Creekside Park project that will stretch from the existing park all the way to the Fruitvale Memorial Centre (FMC) to enhance the beauty and atmosphere of our downtown and potentially add a gazebo and outdoor amenities behind the FMC to facilitate outdoor weddings and other celebrations that can pair with the hall. We have grant funding for an Economic Development/Branding project to define who we are and showcase our appeal to small business, and we are hopeful for grant funding to support a Fruitvale Memorial Centre masterplan of which the intent is to set the stage to make the facility more user friendly for weddings, celebrations of any kind, live performing arts such as music and dance to draw people to our downtown core and expand on the great little businesses we already have. Lots of exciting things on the horizon to shape Fruitvale's future!

From all of us here at the Village of Fruitvale, be kind, be patient, be safe, and have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year with those closest to you.

Mayor Steve Morissette

VILLAGE OF FRUITVALE UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS

Regular Council

Monday December 7, 2020
6:00 pm
Zoom Video Conference

Committee of the Whole

Monday, December 21, 2020
4:00 pm
Zoom Video Conference

Join Zoom Meeting at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3353726693>

Meeting ID: 335 372 6693

Area A - December Update



Director Ali Grieve, Electoral Area A

I'm Grateful to Live in Canada (and in the Beaver Valley). In Canada, we are fortunate to be able to choose where we live. Think for a moment how many people on this planet do not have that choice. Here in the West Kootenays, we have become a kind of quiet mecca for people, wanting to enjoy the lifestyle of the mountains.

We have easy access to ski hills, hiking and biking trails, golf courses, clean water, public parks, camping options, rivers, lakes and creeks to fish in, and the outdoor options go on. And, relatively speaking, the West Kootenays are affordable in terms of housing, taxation and cost of living. What a great place to live and do business! When I reflect on the bounty of our lives here, sometimes I feel selfish, and wish we could keep the secret to ourselves.

I ended up in this area after my parents made a decision to leave Alberta, and my father's successful career as a steam engineer. Here, my parents started a contracting business that was very successful, enabling them to diversify their businesses over the years. The area was good for the family business. Settling in the Beaver Valley then enabled my folks to live their dream of "getting back to the land." Their hard work and belief in the possibilities here provided me and my siblings with a rich, and interesting upbringing. I am so grateful that my parents chose such an incredible place to call home.

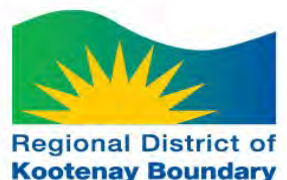
As adults, my siblings and I pursued our own post-secondary paths, leaving the area. And when the time was right, back we came to the Kootenays, to Beaver Valley where we grew up. Over the years, we have seen our communities grow and prosper. Living here, we enjoy most of the amenities of an urban setting, including health care services, great local shopping, good places to eat and quaff ale, as well as ever-improving communication networks connecting us to "out there". What a wonderful place to work and play!

I love where I live and am grateful that previous generations laid the foundation for our high-quality Kootenay communities. We are blessed to live here.

Share your blessings if you can; this year, please help those in need during these very unique times.

Happy Holidays to all!

"There are many in the world who are dying for a piece of bread, but there are many more dying for a little love." Mother Theresa



202 – 843 Rossland Ave, Trail, BC V1R 4S8 | T: 250.368.9148 | T/F: 1.800.355.7352 | rdkb.com

UPCOMING REGIONAL DISTRICT OF KOOTENAY BOUNDARY MEETINGS

Board of Directors

Wednesday, December 9

1:00 pm

Zoom Video Conference

VILLAGE OFFICE CLOSURE

Residents are advised that the Village of Fruitvale Office is closed to the public until further notice as a proactive measure to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The Village provides essential and critical services such as water, sewer and garbage, and because we have a very small staff that must work very closely together and we do not have the resources to certify all employees in the operations of our essential and critical services of water and sewer, it is imperative that the Village protect our essential workers as much as possible to ensure essential and critical services remain operational.

If you have any business to conduct at the Village Office please call the office at 250-367-7551 or email info@village.fruitvale.bc.ca. We will respond to your enquiry within 24 hours. Please check the Village website, www.village.fruitvale.bc.ca, and Facebook page for up-to-date details as they develop.

We are sorry for any inconvenience this office closure may cause and thank you for your understanding; working together, we can make a difference.

GARBAGE BAGS: For residents needing garbage bags, please call the Village Office to make arrangements for pick-up.

Please note, staff will not be in the office from December 24 to January 3. For Emergencies during that time call 250-367-6161.

2021 DOG TAGS (licenses)



The 2021 dog tags (licenses) will be available for purchase on **January 4, 2021**. Call the office to make arrangements for purchase and pick-up of your dog tag.

All dogs in the Village are required to be licensed. Cost for a license is \$25.00 for a spayed or neutered dog and \$75.00 for an unaltered dog. A current year tag on your dog will ensure that it is returned to you if it is found out of your yard. It's a small price to pay for the safe return of your family pet.

Please remember that it is a contravention of the Dog Tax and Regulation Bylaw No. 728 to allow your dogs to run free. Dogs at large run the risk of being picked up by the SPCA and fines will be levied to the dog owner.

Please, for the safety, peace and comfort of your neighbours, ensure your dog(s) are secure in your house or yard and do not let them bark continually at all hours day and night.

VILLAGE OF FRUITVALE GARBAGE & RECYCLING DATES

DECEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

North Side Recycling moved to from Jan. 1 to December 31

JANUARY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 31	25	26	27	28	29	30

LEGEND

- South Side Garbage
- North Side Garbage
- South Side Recycling
- North Side Recycling

Please keep household garbage and recycling in a secure location until the morning of garbage day and recycling day.

OUTSTANDING PROPERTY TAXES AND UTILITIES

All outstanding 2020 property taxes and utilities are due by **December 31, 2020**. Outstanding taxes and utilities as of January 1, 2021 will be transferred to property taxes in arrears and accrue daily interest.

With the Village Office being closed to the public, please choose one of the options below to make your payment:

- E-transfer to finance@village.fruitvale.bc.ca (make sure to reference you roll number or street address and whether the payment is for taxes, utilities, garbage bags, etc.)
- Through on-line banking for taxes and utilities (allow 3 business days for payment to reach the office)
- Drop your payment in the drop box at the front entrance of the Village Office
- Mail your payments to the Village Office
- Use the PayTM app on your phone or tablet

To avoid interest, all payments must reach the Village Office by December 31, 2020, including those sent by mail and made through online banking.

CHRISTMAS TREE REMOVAL



The Village of Fruitvale will once again be taking Christmas trees to the landfill free of charge after the Christmas season. Please bring your tree to the designated area (look for the sign) in the Pole Yard before **January 12**. **There will be no curb-side tree collection.** Please ensure all decorations and plastic tree bags have been removed when you drop off your tree.

"NAME THAT PARK" CONTEST - OPEN FOR VOTING

Voting is open to Village of Fruitvale and Area 'A' residents from **December 1-18, 2020**. Send your vote for the parks complex as a whole and for the name of lower Lewis field by email to info@village.fruitvale.bc.ca or drop it off in the drop box at the Village Office and include your name, street address, phone number and email address, **before December 18, 2020**.

Winners will be notified and the new names announced to the public in January, 2021.

Here are the entry names (pick one from each column):

PARK COMPLEX ENTRIES

BEAVER SIDING COMPLEX
BEAVER VALLEY DIAMOND RECREATIONAL PARK
FRUITVALE FAMILY FIELDS
FRUITVALE MEMORIAL PARKS
HAINES PARK

LOWER LEWIS FIELD ENTRIES

BEAVER SIDING PARK
SHIRLEY LEVESQUE PARK
ELLA MATTEUCCI PARK

Background on some of the names listed above:

BEAVER SIDING was the name given by the Nelson and Fort Sheppard Railway to an area in the valley where the train could stop after climbing the hill from the Columbia River Valley to allow the steam engine to get water. When the townsite was subdivided, around 1907, it was given the name Fruitvale to attract farming settlers to the area.

SHIRLEY LEVESQUE is a long-time resident of Fruitvale and was instrumental in bringing junior hockey, the Beaver Valley Nitehawks, to Fruitvale in 1981. She also played a number of years of slo-pitch in Beaver Valley. Shirley is no stranger to sports in Fruitvale.

ELLA MATTEUCCI started playing baseball in Fruitvale at the age of 3. As a senior in high school she was the only female on the boys' baseball team, the Notre Dame Hounds. She pitched a no-hitter for against a midget AA boys' team. She's played on Team BC and was a member of the Canadian Women's National Baseball team which won a silver medal at the 2015 Pan American Games. Her love of sports did not stop at baseball. She played women's hockey for four years while attending Clarkson University and became known for her defensive play on the fifth-ranked defence in the country. She went on to play in the Canadian Women's Hockey League with the Markham Thunder. Most recently Ella was recruited by the Toronto Blue Jays as an ambassador of their "Girls at Bat" program that looks at ways to support girls across the country to overcome barriers and make sport and recreational opportunities more accessible.

BOULEVARD PARKING DURING SNOW REMOVAL

Residents are reminded that during the winter months you must find off-street parking as the boulevard is where snow is to be when public works is plowing and pushing back snow.

Vehicles parked on the boulevard during snow removal are subject to being plowed in or towed away at the owner's expense. Snow removed to create a boulevard parking space must be stored on either the boulevard or your own property and not placed back on the street. Also, anyone found creating a snow berm at the curb to make a "parking space" on the boulevard will be asked to remove it.

A number of safety and liability issues arise whenever a road is effectively blocked, as is the case when residents pile snow in travel lanes. Residents and emergency vehicles can be impeded, forcing the Village to remove the snow. Please be advised that the cost of an additional call-out to clear a blocked street shall be billed to the appropriate address.

The Village cannot condone the transport or plowing of snow by non-contracted private parties from properties along the Village streets due to liability issues. The Village therefore kindly requests the full cooperation and collaboration of all its residents during snowfall. If there is a compelling set of circumstances that do not allow on-site snow storage in line with Village policy, Fruitvale officials will address that problem.

DID YOU KNOW - BUDGETS

At this time each year Council begins budget deliberations for the next year. The process begins with Council reviewing the current services provided by the Village such as sewer, garbage, road and sidewalk maintenance, snow clearing, storm water management, special events, development, etc.

The costs of those services are then estimated for the next year.

Council then looks at different ways of funding those costs whether it is from grants, user fees, donations or some other source of funding. Any costs that cannot be funded from other sources must be funded through taxation.

As part of the process Council makes every effort to find better and less costly ways to deliver services and to reduce services that are not of value to taxpayers. This process is meant to keep tax rates as low as possible while also ensuring residents are receiving the services they most need today.

An important part of the process is also considering how to keep equipment, pipelines, people, and facilities healthy to continue to provide services into the future.

BEAVER VALLEY YOUTH ACTION NETWORK



The Beaver Valley Youth Action Network is excited to announce that they will be hosting a 'Ski Red' program this winter.

If you are interested in this program and want more information, please email Tammy Gallamore, Beaver Valley Youth Action Network Coordinator at beavervalleyyan@gmail.com and follow BVYAN on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/BVYouthCouncil>

BEAVER VALLEY RECREATION

RDKB staff have been working on a Return to Safe Operations plan for BV Recreation and BV Arena. We will keep the public updated on when we are able to start up programs and possibly public skating in the New Year (dependant on when facilities/halls re-open).

The main doors to the Arena will remain closed to the public for now. Organizations and individuals who have ice booked, will be permitted in the arena during those pre-booked times.

The Arena will be closed for Christmas Holidays. Please call Kelly Walker at 250-367-9319 to book ice rentals or if you have any questions.

CANDY CANE LANE MULTI-GENERATIONAL COLOURING/TRIVIA CONTEST

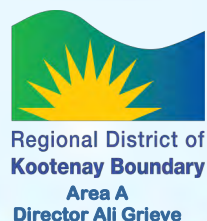
If you missed out on getting a colouring/trivia book for the contest, the good news is we have had 52 more books printed. If you are a resident of Fruitvale or Area A, contact the Village Office, 250-367-7551 or info@village.fruitvale.bc.ca to make arrangements to pick one up. Please include your name, street address, phone number and age.

The deadline to return the book has changed to 6:00pm, Sunday, December 13.

Judging takes place on December 14 and winners will be contacted on December 15. Age groups are as follows: 5-8 yrs old; 9-11 yrs old; 12-15 yrs old; 16-18 yrs old; 19-30 yrs old; 31-35 yrs old; 56-70 yrs old; and 71-100 yrs old. Prizes will be awarded for each age group; and there are some great prizes to be won.

The intent behind the Multi-Generational Colouring and Trivia Contest is for the young people to interact and talk with the long-time residents of Fruitvale to find out more about our town. Our seniors have a wealth of knowledge and they may even learn a thing or two from our juniors!

Thank you to our corporate sponsors. Without their support we would not be able to have these wonderful events for our community.



COMMUNITY NEWS

BEAVER VALLEY THRIFT STORE

The Beaver Valley Thrift Store, located above the Fruitvale Pharmacy, is open to the public on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm and on Saturdays from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm.

Clean and undamaged donations are being accepted on those days. **Please do not leave donations on the sidewalk outside the doors on or at the bottom of the stairs. All donations are to be brought upstairs to the store.** The Thrift Store is staffed by volunteers. Please be kind to them by following the donation drop-off rules.

Beaver Valley Thrift Store can be found on Facebook. Any changes to the opening times will be posted on their Facebook page.

Thank you to the volunteers for providing this service to the citizens of the Beaver Valley!

BEAVER VALLEY FOOD BANK



The Beaver Valley Food Bank would like to send a big **Thank You** to the Fruitvale Co-op for their \$1,000 donation to the food bank from money raised at their 'Fuel Good Day' in September. Also thank you to everyone who came out in support of this event and our local community! Thank You to the Federated Cooperative Limited for this special promotion and giving back 5 cents per litre.

Pictured at left: Melva Scott, BV Food Bank and Richard Jupp, Fruitvale Co-op Director

The Beaver Valley Food Bank is located at 1841-B Highway 3B in Fruitvale - next door to The Clothes Horse and Ruala Café. **In order to access the Beaver Valley Food Bank, an appointment must be made at least one day before the respective Thursday.** To make an appointment, please call:

1st Thursday of the month call Maddy at 250-367-6549 or Steve at 250-650-7859

2nd Thursday of the month call Melva at 250-367-6481 or Bev at 250-367-9661

3rd Thursday of the month call Elaine at 250-367-7094/Janice at 250-367-7833

4th Thursday of the month call George at 250-367-9983/Trudy at 250-367-6053

The Beaver Valley Food Bank Board Members would like to thank the community for their generous support. Without your support, this much needed service would not be available.

Monetary donations to the Beaver Valley Food Bank can be made through the United Way of Trail and District.

ST. RITA'S CATHOLIC CHURCH FRUITVALE

St. Rita's Catholic Church will be holding Christmas Eve Mass on December 24 at 7:00pm and Christmas Day Mass on December 25 at 11:00am. Due to COVID-19 protocols preregistration is mandatory. Pre-register at Sunday Mass or by calling 250-367-6246 with your name, phone number and number of people. Spaces are limited; masks are mandatory. Deadline to register is December 20, 2020.

A BIG THANK YOU FROM CAMP TWEEDSMUIR

The members of the Camp Tweedsmuir Camp Committee would like to extend their heartfelt thank you to the citizens of the Beaver Valley for your continued support of the property. Your generous donations of bottles and cans over the past 9 months has been overwhelming. Normally we are grateful for the ongoing support, but this year even more so. With COVID-19, Scouts Canada has closed all properties across the country, which meant our rental income has been \$0. Like everyone, we still have bills to pay and repairs to do, with no income for either. Your donations have now covered most of our lost income this year. We continue to try to maintain and improve the facilities for our members, our renters, and the community.

We will continue to take in bottles and cans going forward, we just ask that you try to avoid adding recyclables, milk product containers and garbage to the bags as this adds more work, with more trips to the landfill.

You can still drop off in the shed at 1097 Hwy 3B or if you have lots and need it picked up, please call 250-367-7453. **Thank You All!**

Yours in Scouting,
Vic Giraud, Camp Chairman; Heather Hamer, Camp Manager

BEAVER VALLEY AGE FRIENDLY COMMUNITY



WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH AGE FRIENDLY IN THE BEAVER VALLEY DECEMBER 2020



Personal Update from the Coordinator's Desk

I wanted to share that due to changes in my personal circumstances, I have made the difficult decision to resign as the BV Age Friendly Coordinator. I am disappointed that I will not be able to continue in my role, as I have really enjoyed myself, however I am confident that the program will continue to flourish and grow because it is seniors who are the heart and soul of this program!

Despite the challenges we have all endured over the past year, BV Age Friendly has continued to grow and find creative ways to connect and meet the needs of our seniors. Although I didn't have much of an opportunity to interact with you in person, I have really enjoyed the interactions I have had with those of you I have met.

One thing that I have learnt in working with many of you over the past 9 months, is that you are resilient, wise and capable of navigating change and challenges. As we head into continuing concerns around COVID-19 and the health and safety of our community, I would encourage you to continue to be vigilant and hopeful that soon these challenges will be behind us and we will once again be able to connect and what a joy that will be!

I wish you good health and many special memories throughout the coming holiday season. Thank you so much for welcoming me in my role and all the ways you showed your support. We live in a very special community! I look forward to BV Age Friendly continuing to grow and develop and I wish you all much success.

Wishing you a blessed holiday season and all the best in 2021.

Warmly,
Shawna

Seniors' Coffee & Luncheons – A couple of folks signed up for our Zoom coffee meeting in November...yay! Thanks to those who were willing to participate and congratulations to Catherine Seifrit for winning our \$25 Walmart gift card!

Also, a big thanks to my Dad, Geoff Smith, and my daughter, Madi, for assisting me with the preparation of the November boxed lunch. We prepared a lovely beef stew for 85 seniors and the feedback from the Age Friendly community has been overwhelmingly positive! Win/Win!

December Age Friendly Activities:

December 3, 10, & 17 – "Easy- Does-It" Walking Group

Meet at the upper mall entrance of the Waneta Plaza on Thursdays from 10:00 – 11:00am. We will be strolling inside the mall to avoid the ice & snow, socially distant style, including masks. Please contact Shawna to pre-register for this event by calling 250-921-9464 or email bvafoordinator@gmail.com.

December 8 - Zoom Coffee Meeting

Join Shawna on December 8 from 10:00am – noon for our last Zoom Coffee Meeting of the year to chat about what you have enjoyed and what you would like to see going forward. Please call or email Shawna at 250-921-9464 or email bvafoordinator@gmail.com for more information and to register. **Registration deadline is December 7. Please include your email address when registering.**

December 15 – Age Friendly Seniors Boxed Christmas Lunch and Pick-Up Information

Pre-registration is a must - deadline to register is December 7. To pre-register, please call or email Shawna at 250-921-9464 or bvafoordinator@gmail.com and include names, phone number, and whether you are from Area A, Fruitvale or Montrose. Please note that you must be 55+ to participate.

Drive-thru contactless pick-up at Fruitvale Memorial Center loading dock (on the east side of the hall) is on December 15 from 1:00 - 3:00pm. *Don't forget to check January's newsletter for winners of the door prizes and contact the Village of Fruitvale to claim your prize if you are a lucky winner.

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTING PARTNERS

