



# Rural News and Views

46 Municipal Drive, Pictou, NS, B0K 1A0 — October 2019



**The first of October was Fire Prevention Week and it was acknowledged by local fire departments with open houses, displays and a parade. Thank you to all fire department volunteers for all they do for their communities.**

## High Speed Internet a Step Closer for Rural Pictou County

October marked a historic moment for the Municipality of Pictou County as it moves forward on a project that will bring fast and affordable high-speed internet to the community.

In partnership with Nova Communications, a division of ROCK Networks, and a consortium of best-in-class partners, Nokia, Plexus, WesTower, i-Valley, and NCS, the Municipality of Pictou County is positioned to provide internet connectivity where none has existed before. This Open Access Network model succeeds where traditional telecom models fail. It is a self-funded revenue-generating approach for rural communities that will usher in a new era of economic and social growth while attracting and keeping jobs in the community

“The High-Speed Internet Project has been the top priority of our council for the last three years and is a major milestone for all residents and businesses in rural Pictou County. We, as a Council, are proud to be one of the first municipal units to construct, own and control our own high-speed Internet system. This will allow individuals and businesses to live and operate almost anywhere in our rural landscape with all the communications advantages of larger urban centres,” said Municipality of Pictou County Warden Robert Parker. The Municipality of Pictou County has committed \$25 million to build the network ensuring residents and businesses in rural areas have access to the best high-speed Internet available.

For regular updates on the project, check our website and social media pages.

## Municipal Staff

### Directory

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### Recreation

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## Main office

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We are located at:

**46 Municipal Drive,**

**Pictou, NS**

**B0K 1H0**

## A Message from Warden Robert Parker



Greetings to all residents of our rural Municipality of Pictou County.

I hope you all had an enjoyable and relaxing summer with family and friends in our beautiful little part of the world. Just as summer was planning on a graceful departure, along came Hurricane Dorian to remind us Mother Nature is boss which leads me into these subjects.

On behalf of Council, I want to thank our rural fire departments for being there through this terrible storm and for a long period after of no power or communications for many of our residents.

Many fire departments opened their doors as comfort stations. Our fire departments are not just fire departments. When something goes wrong in our countryside, we turn to our volunteer fire departments for help. A sincere thank you to all of you who give of your time and your family's time to help keep us all safe.

A second thing that Hurricane Dorian reminded us of was our rapidly changing climate that we as a municipal government need to prepare for. We need to be ready for much more extreme weather and make sure our infrastructure is up to the job. From sewer and water systems to culverts and bridges to properly situated and built buildings, all our assets must be carefully looked at and upgraded where needed. Along with building our defenses stronger, we need to listen to school children and really get serious about doing our part to save this planet. I believe our Council is prepared to make our own changes, also to pressure other levels of government to force change as well as educate and encourage our residents to change how they do things in their everyday lives.

The final thing that Hurricane Dorian reminded me of was how vulnerable individual communications are in a time of crisis. When I was quite a bit younger, it was always assumed that even though the power went out, the phone still worked. This was not the case for many in the last storm. Our telecommunication giants need to be told by the regulatory bodies that they must do better. Our citizens must not be left isolated with no communications, especially in emergencies. As we begin on the path to building our own high-speed internet network, hopefully our Council can lead the way to more secure communications for all.

Our Municipality is undertaking a study over the next year to ascertain the best way to fund our fire departments going forward. Some of our smaller departments are having difficulty to raise enough funds through our fire levy to properly and safely run their departments. We hope by working co-operatively with all 18 fire departments, we can find an equitable funding formula and other efficiencies that will benefit everyone.

I have enjoyed visiting many of your home communities over the past year. I have enjoyed all the visits and meeting all the good down to earth rural people who tell it like it is. Remember you have 12 good councillors looking out for you and your communities. Don't hesitate to contact any of us.

## Councillors with the Municipality of Pictou County

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Municipality of Pictou County  
[www.county.pictou.ns.ca](http://www.county.pictou.ns.ca)

## MOPC hires Active Communities Co-ordinator

The Municipality of Pictou County has recently hired Clare Steele as its Active Communities Co-ordinator. Ms. Steele will be

working with our Recreation Co-ordinator Cindy Fraser to support and assist communities in our rural districts.

The new position was created based on a recommendation from the MOPC's recreation strategy that was completed in early 2019.

During the development of the strategy, several public consultations were held where people in rural areas expressed the need for more recreational opportunities for all ages in their own communities.



## A Message from District 8



I think it's time to reflect on the last three years and what has been accomplished.

Our initial task was to prioritize what we had heard on the doorsteps because ultimately it is the citizens who should set the agendas for any representative governing body.

We heard that recreation, high speed internet and economic prosperity were all issues that were on the minds of the County's residents. Council has embarked on providing our residents with high speed internet which is an important tool in the educational, economic and social fabric of our community. Council has also addressed the recreational needs of our communities and we have committed to strengthening our recreation capabilities. There are new monies allotted for this initiative and you should see results of this strategy being rolled out over the next few months.

Economic development and retention are also a major issue on the doorsteps. The Pictou County Regional Enterprise Network will be the lead agency for economic development and retention in Pictou County.

I know that the councillors I serve with have the best interests of their constituents at heart and will continue to listen and push forward the issues that will make our County a great place to live.

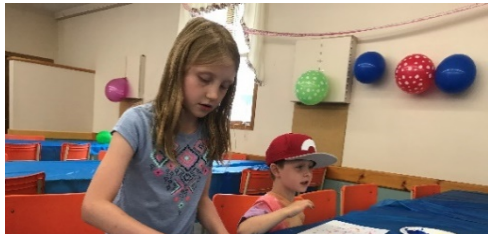
- District 8 Coun. Larry Turner



The Municipality of Pictou County's Public Works Department can be reached at 902-485-4085 during regular business hours and at 902-301-1825 after hours for emergencies.

# Summer Recreation Fun

Summer is gone but not forgotten here at the MOPC. We ran three LARK programs and two Red Cross swimming sessions in addition to supporting rural day camps and providing special events. Thanks to everyone who participated in our programs and we look forward to seeing you again next year.



Caribou Lark Program



Lismore swim Program



Little Harbour Lark Program

East River Valley Rec Program



River John Swim Program



Plymouth Rec Program



River John Rec Program, top photo.  
Salt Springs Rec Program, right photo.



## Fun Kits for Loan

Do you need recreation equipment for an event? Did you know that Pictou County Recreation has all kinds of fun equipment available? A Fun Kit of everything from parachutes, frisbees, and pylons to ball hockey, soccer, pickleball and flag football equipment can be made available to you for loan. 902-485-8528 or e-mail [recreation@munpict.ca](mailto:recreation@munpict.ca).

## Labour Market Shortages a Concern for Local Business Owners

PICTOU, NS - The local business community has a new ally in the Pictou County Regional Enterprise Network.

Sarah MacIntosh – Wiseman, CEO of PC REN, provided an overview to



Municipality of Pictou County councilors in September of her REN work since she took the helm on April 1, 2019 and how the organization has been working to connect with all types of businesses.

“We want to make sure people understand we are not just talking about growth in expansion in getting the next big business to come here and invest here,” she said. “Obviously growth and expansion and getting new jobs is a positive thing, but we know we need to look at the fabric of the whole community. We need to look at education and barriers to employment, transportation and health.”

The Pictou County Regional Enterprise Network is one of seven RENs in Nova Scotia which are funded both provincially and municipally. The six municipal units in the County contribute funding as well as Pictou Landing First Nations. Each of these units and PFLN have representatives that sit on an oversight committee for the REN. District 8 Coun. Larry

Turner is the Municipality of Pictou County’s representative on this committee.

Wiseman said the province has given PC REN some priorities such as more support for businesses wanting to export their goods, not just internationally, but to another province. It also wants a focus on labour market participation, employment issues and barriers for employment.

“One of the issues that has risen to the top is local labour market shortages,” she said. “This personally surprised me a little bit. I didn’t understand the significance and the level that some employers are dealing with and not being able to get enough people into the jobs that they need to have filled. It is happening in multiple sectors and in businesses ranging from mom and pop operations to really large organizations.”

In addition to Wiseman, PC REN has hired a business outreach and innovation coordinator who will be working with small businesses to find out what they want to be and help them get there.

She said PC REN will be looking at providing support services to local businesses at no cost. Pictou County REN will also be developing its own strategic plan in the fall that will define its roles and hold it accountable for the work that needs to be done.

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## Hillside Community Society purchases building for community centre

Residents of Hillside have formed an action group called the Hillside Community Society and its mission was to have a community centre in the area for community events. The society is pleased to announce the land and building for the centre have been purchased. We would like to thank everyone who supported our fundraisers and all the volunteers that have made this dream a reality. There is still much work to do getting the building ready for operation. If you have some time to volunteer to help get the Hillside Community Centre ready to open its doors, contact Peter or Sadie Boyles at 902-755-3938 or email - [sadie.boyles@gmail.com](mailto:sadie.boyles@gmail.com).

# Our Council and Our Communities



Special Olympics presented Warden Robert Parker with a silver medal for its contribution and support of National Olympics Games held in Antigonish in 2018. On hand for the presentation were, Cathy Mason, left, regional coordinator for Special Olympics and Stacey Saunders, a national gold and silver medalist at the Games.



District 9 Coun. Peter Boyles, right, presents Delrosa Stewart, left, and Linacy Fire Chief Dale Pettipas with a plaque of appreciation for their involvement with Camp Connect.



The Municipality of Pictou County hosted a Pride Flag raising in July at its Administration Building in honour of Pictou County Pride Week which also marked the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the decriminalization of homosexuality in Canada.



District 3 Coun. Darla MacKeil presents Brenda Spencer MacLeod, a member of the Pictou Island heritage committee, with a plaque of recognition for Island residents who celebrated their first annual Heritage Day.



The Municipality of Pictou County typically hosts its monthly Council meeting the first Monday of each month and Property and Finance Committee meetings the third Monday of Month. The meetings begin at 7 p.m. in Council Chambers at 46 Municipal Drive, Pictou and are open to the public.



Rhiannon McNair, left, of the Municipality of Pictou County's finance department presents Viola's Place Society Treasurer Marie Horton with a cheque for \$1100. MOPC staff raised money for the homeless shelter through a barbecue in June.



Warden Robert Parker attended the Nova Scotia Women's Institute's AGM at the Museum of Industry this past week along with Stellarton Mayor Danny MacGillivray, left, and Hugh MacKay, right, who is the MLA for Chester-St. Margaret's. Mr. MacKay was in attendance on behalf of Nova Scotia Agricultural Minister Keith Colwell.



The Little Harbour Walking and Bicycling Trail Society unveiled a new sign at the look off at Roy Island showing various points of interest that can be seen from the look off. Here in the photo, left to right, are members of the Little Harbour Walking and Bicycling Society: Patsi Blaikie, past president; George Cochrane, vice president; Bonny MacLean, president; John Baldwin, director; Nancy Baldwin, secretary-treasurer; Debi Wadden, Municipal Councillor District 2. Missing from photo are Royce Williston, director and Erin Wadden, director.



Plymouth Fire Department has a new AED machine thanks to a contribution by the Municipality of Pictou County. The County purchased eight AED Machines for seven districts in the past fiscal year and additional machines were purchased for 2018-2019. The machines are placed in community, church or fire halls where people gather. Here, from the left: Plymouth Chief Mike Conway, fire hall volunteer Sheila Conway and District 11 Coun. Andy Thompson.

## New Members Always Welcome

**The Municipality of Pictou County is rich with volunteers who are passionate about their community. Here are listing of a few community clubs actively meeting and always looking for new members.**

**The Abercrombie Community Centre** holds monthly meetings the second Wednesday of the month at the centre at 1 p.m. For more information, contact Marilyn at 902-752-8914.

**Abercrombie Women's Institute** meets the second Tuesday of each month. For more information, contact secretary Elizabeth Palmer at 902-752-3826.


**Blue Mountain & District Fire Department** is composed of community minded volunteers who perform fire suppression, medical and other related emergency services for local jurisdiction including Blue Mountain, Meiklefield, Garden of Eden, Woodfield, French River, Moose River, Eden Lake and all other adjoining areas. It takes great pride in its department and its hard-working members. It is always looking for like minded individuals to join its volunteer fire department. Please feel free to contact any member of the Blue Mountain & District Volunteer Fire Department for information.

**Caribou Women's Institute** – The Caribou Women's Institute meets the second Monday of each month at the Bayview Community Hall in spring and fall. From January to March, members meet Sunday afternoon in Pictou. For more information, contact Faustina Smith at 902-485-8212 or Ruth Wortman at 902-382-2009.

**Durham Community Hall** – 1679 Green Hill Road. The hall is wheelchair accessible and available for rentals. For more information contact Betty at 902-485-4917.

**Hillside Girls Club** – The Club had another successful year, with 40 girls participating in the program. The groups are open to girls who are four years of age (and in school) and older. The girls learn crafts, sewing, knitting etc. while forming lifelong friendships. The Hillside Girls Club also supports the local SPCA with donations for the shelter. Registration for the 2019-2020 season is October 22, 2019. The club always appreciate new leaders or helpers and welcomes anyone who would like to join. Anyone interested or looking for further information can contact Ellen Murphy at 902-755-1801.

**Little Harbour Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary** - The Ladies Auxiliary of the Little Harbour Fire Department has been raising funds for the Fire Department for more than 40 years. The group meets at 7 p.m. at the fire hall on the second Monday of each month from September to June. New members and guests are always welcome. Annual dues are \$5 collected by October. Monthly meetings include discussion about the fire department and community, a light lunch and guest speaker. Games or crafts are played at the meeting. For more information or to book for catering call Rita MacDonald at 902-755-2103 or 902-759-0212, ritamac@esatlink.ca or Janet MacLean at 902-396-8224, janetmehm@hotmail.com.

**Keep up to date on events at [www.county.pictou.ns.ca](http://www.county.pictou.ns.ca) or follow us on  Facebook and  Twitter.**



**Lyons Brook Women's Institute** is part of a local, national and international organization that promotes women, families and communities. The group meets on the third Thursday of each month. If interested in finding out more, contact Lynn at 902-485-9358.

**Garden of Eden Women's Institute** meets the fourth Tuesday of the month from September to June. Meetings are held in members' homes or the community hall at 1 p.m.

**MacPherson's Mills Women's Institute** meets the second Thursday of each month and include guest speakers or someone sharing a new craft, hobby and topic of interest. For more information, contact Secretary Lorraine Blakeney at 902-922-2059.

**Meadowville-Poplar Hill Community Hall** After a few idle years, the Meadowville-Poplar Hill Hall is providing the community with many events. Along with municipal grants, the fundraising and work of community members have enabled a good deal of needed repairs and upgrades to the hall. Community member Kristin Ross is piloting a new endeavor called the Community Project. This works like a time bank where community members match up needs in the community with resources available. The hope is that community members can help others with things they may be unable to accomplish on their own and they can also receive a hand when needed. For information on the hall, contact Thelma Cassie at 902-485-4647 or Alanna Murray at 902-485-8845.

**Mill Brook Community Club** - Meetings are held the last Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. on March, April, May, August, September, October (annual meeting) and November. For further information, you can contact Snookie (Anna) Hirtle at 902-755-2820, Faye Fraser at 902-396-4275 or Mary Chesnut at 902-396-3798.

**National Association of Federal Retirees** has a about 450 members made up retired members of public service, Canadian Armed Forces, RCMP, judges and all other retired from the federal government. The association projects the pensions and benefits of all retirees. Margaret Thompson - margaret.thompson@bellaliant.net. Next Meeting October 17<sup>th</sup> at the Abercrombie Fire Hall at 2 p.m. Guest speaker and social to follow.

**Plymouth Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary** meets at the fire hall on the second Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m., except for July and August. For more information, contact President Lynn Fenton at 902-755-1784.

**Scotsburn Recreation Club** – Meetings are held the third Sunday of the month at J.P. Gammon Recreation Centre at 7 p.m. For more information, contact scotsburnrec@hotmail.com.

**Scotsburn 55+ Club Activities** – To learn more about programs offered or for membership information, contact Sandra Malenfant at malenfant1@eastlink.ca\_or Joan Clark at jjclark@tncweb.ca.

**Springville Women's Institute** meets the second Tuesday of each month. Its purpose is women learning, sharing and improving quality of life for all. For more information, contact Debbie White at [2twins1979@gmail.com](mailto:2twins1979@gmail.com) or call 902-923-2416.

**If you would like your community group's contact information and upcoming events listed on our website or the next newsletter, contact sueann.musick@munpict.ca.**



**Every Sunday until Nov. 24 from 6:30-7:30 p.m.**

Lismore Hall - Fall Fitness Program with instructor Kelli Cruikshank. Twenty people registered but room for five drop ins on a weekly basis. Drop in fee is \$5 a week. Please Facebook Lisa MacEachern to confirm your spot each week.

**Starting October 15** -Taoist Tai Chi® arts Beginner Classes from 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. and 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Trinity United Church, 151 Temperance Street (entrance on MacLean St.), New Glasgow, NS. For further information please call 902-755-4034.

**October 17, 7 p.m.** - Lyons Brook WI Meeting- Lyons Brook Hall - Program is Beeswax Covers. Watch the Lyon's Brook Facebook page for more information.

**October 19, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.**- The 5th Annual Christmas Craft Sale will be held in Bethel Church Hall Pictou Landing. Venders can rent a table for \$20. If you are a crafter who would like to rent a table contact Mary Condon at marycondon@eastlink.ca or phone 902-752-0296, or Ruth Hopkins at ruthwayne@gmail.com or 902-752-0182. \$2 admission.

**October 19, 7 p.m.** - Little Harbour Community Centre - Variety Concert featuring local talent.

**October 26, 6 p.m.** - Indonesian Dinner - Lyons Brook Hall. Come and enjoy an Indonesian Dinner in the Lyon's Brook Hall. This meal, catered by Willem Hekman, is a fundraiser for the Lyon's Brook Hall. Limited number of tickets are available at \$17.50 each. Call 902-485- 8358 to reserve or call one of the directors.

**October 26, 6-7:30 p.m.** – Caribou Fire Hall. Halloween Hullabaloo. Free admission and families are encouraged to dress up and come and enjoy a fun evening.

**October 27, 8 a.m. – Noon** - Flea Market at Abercrombie Community Centre - Oct. 27th - Begins at 8 a.m. for sellers and 9 a.m.-Noon for buyers. Canteen, lots of books, new to you, etc. For more information, phone 902-752-8115, 902-752-8914 or 902-752-3826.

**October 30, Noon** - Lyon's Brook Lunch and Learn sessions will continue October 30 with Halloween Fun and November 20 with information on defibrillators. Both sessions begin at noon and are held in the Lyon's Brook Hall.

**November 11, 2:30 p.m.** - Remembrance Day Service at the Glencoe Community Hall November 15 and 16 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Millbrook Community Centre.

**November 16, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.** 144 CEF Pictou will be hosting an open house at the Pictou DeCoste Center parking lot. You can learn what life in the Air Force Reserves is about by talking with our troops. There will be a recruiter on hand to get you started on the path to a great career.

**November 23, 2-4 p.m.** - Annual Christmas Tea and Sale - Abercrombie Community Centre

**November 29-30, 9 p.m.** - 25th annual Christmas Craft Bazaar will be held at the Alma Fire Hall on Friday, November 29th (9am-6pm) and Saturday, November 30th (9am-5pm) Admission \$2. The hall is wheelchair accessible. Please bring your reusable shopping bags.

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**If you have a community submission send it sueann.musick@munpict.ca**

# Community Health Boards are Making a Difference! YOU CAN TOO!

Community Health Boards (CHBs) play important roles in Nova Scotia communities and within the Nova Scotia Health Authority. They develop community health plans that inform planning within the Health Authority and provide the foundation for local partnerships and projects. Through the annual Wellness Fund, CHBs support local projects that promote community wellness, such as community gardens, libraries, music & art, recreation, youth leadership, and more!

Joining a Community Health Board is a great way to get involved in your community. There are two CHBs in Pictou County: the Pictou West CHB and the Central & East Pictou CHB.



Meetings are held monthly and community members are welcome to attend CHB meetings to meet the members and get a sense of the work of the CHBs.

To learn more about CHBs in Pictou County or to apply to become a CHB member, call Lynn Langille (CHB Coordinator) at 902-324-0621 or email [lynn.langille2@nshealth.ca](mailto:lynn.langille2@nshealth.ca). Online, visit the CHB website at <https://www.communityhealthboards.ns.ca>.

## A Message from District 9

Hello Everyone!

A huge thank you to the Linacy Fire Department and Ladies Auxiliary for their tremendous service to our community. They conducted many successful projects this summer.



To name a few, the Annual Family Fun Day, the 5th Annual Poker Run for Burn Survivors' Camp Connect in support of Nova Scotia Firefighters Burn Treatment Society Summer Camp for Burn Survivors and during Hurricane Dorian they opened the fire hall as a comfort center for residents.

Delrosa Stewart and Linacy Fire Chief Dale Pettipas accepted a plaque of appreciation on behalf of the Ladies Auxiliary and Linacy Fire Department for their involvement with Camp Connect. Edward (Bud) MacPherson received a plaque of recognition for his 22 years of volunteer service to the operation and care of the Hillside Cemetery.

Health care and the environment continue to be

important to me. I have participated in sessions over the summer for the implementation of a National Pharmacare Program. I am your voice at the council table, if you have any issues or concerns that you would like me to bring forward to council.

I believe our newsletter is important to rural homes in Pictou County especially for those homes that do not have access to a computer. It highlights the work of council as well as keeping residents up to date on services provided and events happening in your district.

I encourage everyone to attend the Remembrance Day services taking place at the cenotaphs in your community. Let us always honour those men and women who put their lives on the line and bravely fought for our country to protect the freedoms that we all enjoy. Lest We Forget.

On behalf of Sadie and myself I extend to everyone our sincere wishes for a Merry Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year. Have a fun and safe winter.

**Peter Boyles**

**Councillor – District 9**

**Email: [peter.boyles@municip.ca](mailto:peter.boyles@municip.ca)**

**902-755-3938**

## Council receives updates on Springville Bridge and Abercrombie Intersection

PICTOU, NS – Roads and bridges were the topic of discussion for councillors recently when they met with Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal Area Manager Greg Chisholm.

Chisholm provided a detailed report to the Municipality of Pictou County on TIR's budget, priorities, work schedules and assessments followed by a question and answer session with councillors.

County Warden Robert Parker asked for an update on two areas of concern for council in the past few years that included the Springville bridge and the Abercrombie intersection that links to the Trenton connector.

Chisholm said TIR is looking at designs to replace the current Springville bridge which has been closed for the past two years because of safety concerns. He hopes the department can replace it in early 2020 under its capital program.

He said TIR in the Pictou County area has 327 bridges and replacing the Springville bridge is estimated to cost about \$3 million. He was

unable to say what kind of bridge will replace the existing structure, but he is confident it will be able to accommodate agricultural vehicles that are used in the surrounding farming communities.

"If funding is available, we would be ready to go next year," he said.

Regarding the Abercrombie Intersection, Chisholm said short term solutions such as upgrading the signal controls were done and a roundabout has been discussed amongst senior management. He said the idea has some support but is estimated to be another \$3 million project for the area in an already tight budget, so he doesn't expect to see it built next year.

"It is on my priority list and it is something our top engineer is aware of and it will be continued to be monitored," he said.

Chisholm said that there have been studies on the speed limits for all four approaches to the intersection and he expects changes in the future that will follow national guideline standards.



If you have a road or bridge issue, you can contact the Province of Nova Scotia's Operations Contact Centre which is staffed 24 hours a day – 7 days a week. It can be reached by calling locally at 902-755-7060, toll free at 1-844-696-7737 or by email at [TIR-OCC@novascotia.ca](mailto:TIR-OCC@novascotia.ca)

### SMOKE ALARMS SAVE LIVES

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– WHEN YOU NEED THEM THE MOST

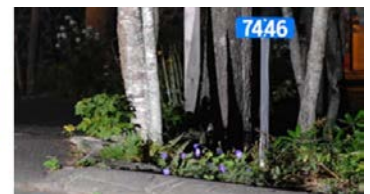
- **TEST** smoke alarms monthly
- Change the **BATTERIES** every year
- Beware of **CHIRPING** smoke alarms – it's time to replace the batteries
- Replace older smoke alarms – **REPLACE** alarms that are more than 10 years old
- Know the **SOUND** of the smoke alarm and what to do if the alarm goes off



REMEMBER, ONLY WORKING SMOKE  
ALARMS CAN SAVE YOUR LIFE!

Sign up For Safety

**7446**  
Post Your Civic Number



Contact your local fire departments about purchasing a civic number. Remember that emergency services can't help you if they can't find you.