

Springfield News and Views

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FIRE STATION #3 IN PLANNING STAGE

Council in collaboration with the Fire Chief Mike Purtill and Chief Administrative Officer Larry Tetrault have started the project management process for the construction of a new fire station. The modern two bay building will be located in the industrial area of Springfield, west of the Floodway. The RM owns a variety of properties in this area which are being considered for the new fire hall's location. One of the fire trucks from the OakBank Fire Station #1 will be transferred to the new fire hall once they receive a brand new state of the art fire truck in the near future. The building will be designed for the construction of additional bays when required. The industries, businesses and residents in this region will receive quicker response times and should experience reductions in their insurance premiums.

CROP RESIDUE BURNING PROGRAM

Manitoba's Crop Residue Burning Regulation prohibits night burning of crop residues and non-crop plant material in yards, rights-of-way, ditches, native pastures and waste areas all year round. It also places additional restrictions on daytime burning of crop residue from August 1 through November 15 by permitting burning only in authorized municipalities during certain hours. A toll-free number 1-800-265-1233 provides information each day from August 1 to November 15 to advise individuals about whether burning is authorized in their municipality on that day and, if so, during which hours.

The majority of farmers do not burn. They prefer to handle straw in other ways, for example, by tilling it into the soil, and by chopping and spreading the straw so it does not plug up seeding equipment. It has been estimated that in Manitoba, province-wide, only about five percent of producers burn unwanted straw. However, some farmers find it difficult to deal with straw in the normal ways. For example, a bumper crop can leave a tremendous amount of straw, which can be very difficult to work into the soil or spread evenly across the field. Rainy weather after harvest can leave fields too wet to till.

The following are some recommendations from Manitoba Agriculture if burning of crop residue is required. Burn only within the hours specified in the daily authorization. Ensure fires are supervised at all times and the area has been adequately fireguarded to prevent the spread of fires. Ensure smoke will not create an unreasonable hazard to people's health or highway safety.

