



A Newsletter from  
the Village of Keremeos

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## Smoking ban in Keremeos parks

Council is currently considering amendments to the Parks Bylaw to prohibit smoking of any substance, including e-cigarette devices, in Keremeos parks. “In recent years, the Village of Keremeos has worked hard to protect the environment and the health of our residents” commented Mayor Manfred Bauer, “It doesn’t make sense to allow smoking right next to where people are exercising and children are playing.”

In addition to preventing second-hand smoke exposure to park visitors, the move will reduce or eliminate the prevalence of cigarette butts littering the park grounds and children’s play areas.



Steps are also being taken to protect visitors and staff in public buildings from second-hand smoke. Signs will be posted to advise that smoking within 6 metres of doors, windows and air intakes is prohibited according to WorkSafe regulations. New “butt out” canisters to dispose of lit cigarettes will be placed beside the WorkSafe signs.

The bylaw amendments were introduced at the September 5, 2017 Council meeting, and are scheduled for adoption at the October 2, 2017 meeting.

## Playground upgrade draws lots of little visitors!

Memorial Park playground upgrades to improve accessibility and inclusivity are not quite complete, but children are already having a lot of fun trying out the new play items.



Playground upgrades were possible because of generous donations from:

- Western Economic Diversification Canada 150 Fund
- The Village of Keremeos
- Keremeos Volunteer Fire Department
- Franklin Industries Inc.
- Vesper Transport Ltd.
- The Keremeos Elks

The changes to the playground were designed to make it easier to access, whether to individuals in wheelchairs or other mobility devices, or a mom with a stroller. Some new play features are at wheelchair height, and new accessible picnic benches have been added. Other additions to the playground were “inclusive” play features. The talk tubes, fire truck, plane and daisy are all meant to be shared with a buddy, making play more social.

A new music station, featuring rainbow drums and an accessible xylophone, is very popular with kids and adults alike. Visitors to the playground are now treated to frequent impromptu concerts! The enhanced playground is part of the family exercise area in Memorial Park, including the outdoor exercise equipment and the community outdoor pool.

# Downtown enhancements

The downtown enhancement project will move forward this fall with refined plans based on public input from the July 12, 2017 Open House. In the interim, Village staff are working with some property owners to beautify downtown elements, and working with other property owners on plans to develop or re-open their premises.



**Banner at 613 7th Avenue**

Completed initiatives include the placement of a decorative banner over the construction fence downtown at 613-7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, and installation of the new full-colour sign at the Information Centre. The sign will be used for community events and notices as before, but will include more signs to promote Keremeos in the future.

Watch for announcements about the public next open house to provide more input into the shaping of our community!



**New gateway sign**

## New Speed Reader is Slowing Traffic



Keremeos' new speed reader has been in place for over a month now, and the statistics show that the driver feedback is gradually decreasing the average vehicle speed. Many cars are observed braking as soon as they see the sign.

Acquisition of the speed reader was a joint initiative between the Village of Keremeos and ICBC, with the objective to slow cars down before they get into the busier pedestrian areas of the hospital, Memorial Park and downtown. The reader recorded speeds for over 82,000 eastbound vehicles in the month of August.

The speed reader will be moved around Keremeos to remind drivers of the speed limit in high risk areas. The reader's next stop will be on 9<sup>th</sup> Street near 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, to help keep the street safe during the busy back-to-school season.

The speed reader and the Highway 3 curb flares planned with the water upgrades (see below), are part of Keremeos' plan to make the streets safer, particularly for pedestrians.

## Water Main Work Postponed until Spring, 2018

The Village tender for water upgrades in the fall of 2017 received no bids, so the work has been postponed until spring, 2018. Local contractors are beyond capacity, working to remediate damage from floods, fires and a very busy 2017 building season. The project will be re-tendered this fall.

Village staff will provide an updated schedule of work as soon as more information is available. Please contact the Village Office at 250-499-2711 or [coordinator@keremeos.ca](mailto:coordinator@keremeos.ca) to be added to a special resident notification system group for water upgrade news.



**Thanks for doing your part by keeping your dog on a leash in public spaces, and picking up after your dog!**

## Façade Improvement Grants for 2017

The Village is very pleased to award three façade improvement grants for 2017. The local businesses planning façade upgrades are:

- K Mountain Diner – new sign, paint and lighting
- Benja Thai – neon framing lights and sign for upper facade
- Century 21 real estate (on 7<sup>th</sup> Street next to Laundromat) – new sign, paint, brick work and façade

Benja Thai has already completed their façade improvement and it looks beautiful! The K Mountain Diner and Century 21 will complete their façade work before November 30, 2017.

Before and after photos will appear in a future edition of this newsletter.

### Do you have an existing secondary suite or carriage house?

In March, 2017, Council extended the zones in which secondary suites (+ R1-R4) and carriage houses (+ R1-R3) are allowed in the Village.

Secondary suites and carriage houses are an effective way to provide more affordable housing options and rental stock in the community.

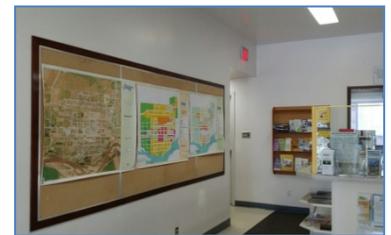
**Please notify the Village Office if you have an existing, unregistered secondary suite or carriage house, so that we may arrange a safety inspection at no cost to you, and amend our records.**

### Village Office has a fresh new look

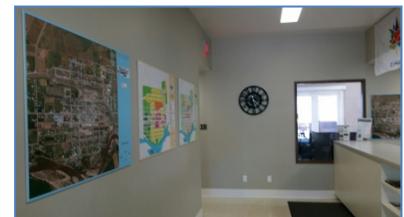
The Village municipal office is often a newcomers' first impression of Keremeos.

As with the downtown enhancements, the Village office needed a fresher and more welcoming look. A coat of paint, de-cluttering, and pushing back the counter to make the counter area roomier has made a big difference!

A grant application has been submitted for 2018, to renovate part of the counter to wheelchair /sitting height, so that visitors have the choice to be seated while conducting their municipal business.



**Before**



**After**

### Help us keep the resident contact numbers up to date!

If you need to update your resident contact information, go to the Notification System page on [keremeos.ca](http://keremeos.ca) and click on "Already registered?" at the top of the sign-up form. The link will walk you through how to update your information. If you prefer, the Village Office staff would be pleased to help you update your information.

### Not signed up yet?

Our goal is to have every Keremeos household on the resident notification system, so that we can reach everyone in the event of an emergency. You can sign up online at [keremeos.ca](http://keremeos.ca), submit the form on the back of this newsletter, or call the Village Office at 250-499-2711.

**Please sign up, and encourage others to do the same!**

As an option to online sign-up, you may complete the form below and submit it to the Village of Keremeos Office, 702-4<sup>th</sup> Street, Keremeos:



**Keremeos Resident Notification System Sign-up Form**

First name

Last Name

House number

Postal Code

Street Name

Apartment Number

Email address (one per person)

Phone number(s) for automated call

Cell phone number(s) for text message

(You are automatically signed up for urgent messages and statutory notifications from the municipality)

- Also wish to receive Keremeos news to my email
- Contact info is for a business
- Contact wishes to make officials aware of an impairment

Terms:

Your municipal alert system is an emergency communication tool that should not be used as a sole source of information. If you feel threatened, you should not in any event, rely solely on this alert system and you must immediately take the necessary precautions to make yourself and your belongings safe from any danger. Although the system is an important tool to your municipality, in case of an emergency, it bears no warranty as to the accuracy, completeness or notification of any alert posted on or transmitted by the system. Your municipality, its officers, employees and right holders shall not be liable for damages arising directly or indirectly, should a warning not be received by a subscriber. By checking the box below, you accept the terms of this notice and waive accordingly the right to pursue your municipality, its officers, employees and right holders.

- I've read and accept the terms and conditions

**(Notification System is for residents living within the Keremeos municipal boundaries)**