



Stettler County **CONNECTION**

SUMMER 2023

DO YOU NEED WATER?

WE NEED
TO KNOW!

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**CHANGES TO
SNOW PLOWING**

PAGE 23

**SOUTH SHORE
TRAFFIC STUDY**

PAGE 8

**TOWN AND
COUNTY TO
CONTINUE JOINT
FIRE SERVICE**

PAGE 5



JOIN THE COUNTY
OF STETTLER FOR
**COUNTY IN YOUR
COMMUNITY EVENTS**



JOIN COUNCIL &
ADMINISTRATION TO
DISCUSS CURRENT
PROJECTS IN THE
COUNTY

WITH SPECIAL
GUESTS:
THE STETTLER RCMP
& STETTLER FCSS

WE'LL BE IN...

- STETTLER, SEPT. 5
- BOTHA, SEPT. 14
- RED WILLOW, SEPT. 21

**JOIN US FOR A MEAL!
FOR CATERING PURPOSES,
PLEASE RSVP VIA:**

WWW.STETTLERCOUNTY.CA/GATHER

403-742-4441



ON THE COVER

"Buffalo Lake" View details of the 2023 County of Stettler Photo Contest on page 24.

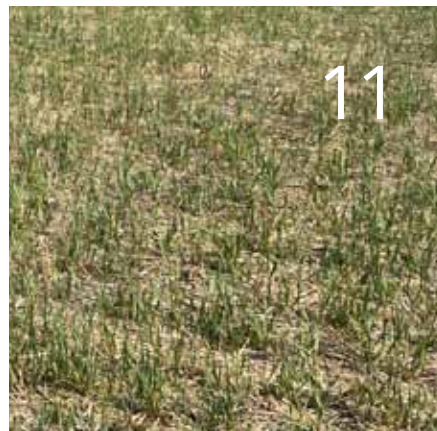
Photo by: Steve Maruk

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TOWN AND COUNTY TO CONTINUE AS PARTNERS.



COUNTY DECLARES AGRICULTURAL DISASTER



JOIN US AT FALL COUNTY IN YOUR COMMUNITY EVENTS





INTRO

“What is your ‘why’?”

As spring operations ramped up in Stettler County, seasonal staff were hired and summer maintenance, chores, and projects began. As always, we spend time talking health and safety. We have a health and safety committee where we discuss our commitment to ensuring staff have all the time, tools and knowledge needed to perform our jobs safely. It’s a commitment for the County of Stettler, and we have a dedicated team who makes it, and keeps it, a priority.

At the end of the day, what is most important to us, is that everyone gets home safe.

That means you too.

But we all get in a hurry sometimes, for one reason or another. And sometimes your ‘hurry’ leaves us cutting a corner we know deep down we shouldn’t cut, and/or your ‘hurry’ perfectly collides with someone else’s.

So we are asking you to join us in identifying your ‘why’. Why do you need to ensure you get home safe each and every day? Take a minute right now and scroll through some photos. Chances are, your ‘why’ will appear pretty quickly, and repeatedly in your albums. It might be someone: a family, a loved one, an aging parent that relies on you. It might be something: a hobby, a project, a restoration, a labour of love. It might be somewhere...your happy place, or a retirement dream. It could be a combination of all of the above. The point is, we all have a ‘why’.

If you have a cell phone, consider putting your ‘why’ on your home screen. And before you zip off to work, to the field, or to the pens for daily chores, take a minute to remind yourself who or what your ‘why’ is, and why it’s important that you go about your day and your task thoughtfully, intentionally, and carefully each and every day.

We all have bad days. Maybe our ‘why’ spoke to us too sharply before our first cup of coffee. On those days, it’s even more important to remember that everyone you encounter has their own ‘why’. And we owe them the courtesy of staying safe as well, because none of us want to imagine the alternative.

Niki Thorsteinsson
Director of Communications

County of Stettler

CAO

Yvette Cassidy

Councillors

Ward 1: Byemoor-Endiang

Les Stulberg

Ward 2: Big Valley

Dave Grover

Ward 3: Botha-Gadsby

Larry Clarke

Ward 4: Erskine-South Warden

James Nibourg

Ward 5: Stettler

Ernie Gendre

Ward 6: Erskine-Buffalo Lake

Justin Stevens

Ward 7: Donalds-Red Willow

Paul McKay

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Stettler, AB T0C 2L0
Phone: 403-742-4441
stettlercounty.ca





REEVE'S RAMBLINGS

Larry Clarke - Reeve, County of Stettler

As I look out the window the thermometer on June 24th is 10 C with a forecasted high of 26, this spring allowed farmers to plant crops and calve cows in very reasonable conditions but put us in dire need of rain to keep crops, pasture and hay from burning up. We as Stettler County council called Agricultural Disaster on June 14 due to the lack of moisture and extreme heat ...you're welcome, as it rained that night. This is not a decision that is taken lightly. Since then other municipalities have declared Agricultural Disasters as well and we will be communicating any programs that will result from this. The rainfall has varied substantially throughout our County, with reports of under an inch to approaching 6 inches in some areas. Crops are heading out with 4" stems. Some crops are being reseeded with hay and pasture land badly stressed. Other areas of our province have had a very long spring of fighting wildfires. We have had some of our well-trained staff assist in the emergency management on the evacuations of communities. Thank you to these dedicated staff members and all who filled the void in their absence.

It has been a very busy spring for council and staff as we have had four evening community engagement sessions which have been very well-attended with great conversations between ratepayers and the departments that were all represented. There will be three more in the fall to cover all areas of the County. These will be held at the Stettler Ag Society, Botha Hall and Red Willow Hall. The dates are noted on page 24. Council decided to go with community engagements

versus having a booth at the trade fair as we thought it would lead to better conversations with rural residents, which has certainly been evident in our spring sessions. Please attend one of our fall sessions if you need a question answered or ideas discussed.

Spring 2023 brought us a Provincial election. Now the ministers are appointed we will be back in discussions with departments and lobbying along with the RMA to ensure rural needs are being listened to and addressed. We, as rural, continue to remind our provincial government that raw materials, resources including the rural work force, energy sources and food come from rural and ensure they keep our road and bridge infrastructures, and needs such as health care, ambulance contracts, water and granting along with many other items are on the agenda.

We had great attendance at the Steel Wheel Stampede Town and County pancake breakfast on Saturday, June 10. Roughly 540 people enjoyed a delicious, warm breakfast. Thanks to the fellow councillors who cooked and served breakfast and thanks to Town of Stettler staff for organizing and managing the cleanup this year. It was great there was staff available to clean-up as councillors had a very tight window to get to the floats for the parade. What a wonderful day for a parade and then we were able to attend the dignitary luncheon to thank our visiting municipalities and towns/villages for travelling to attend the parade. Thank you to the Stettler Board of Trade for organizing the parade and luncheon. There were many other things going on for folks to

REEVE'S RAMBLINGS

enjoy for the rest of the day.

We are currently in mediation with the Town of Stettler regarding the Stettler Regional Fire Agreement. I know there is a lot of talk about this, but we are working to try and come up with the best solution to ensure proper protection for all residences and businesses within our community. We have many agreements with municipal partners and these require review and negotiations to ensure County of Stettler residents are being properly represented. They need to be updated and revised to ensure programs and services are meeting today's needs, current and cost effective. Through the fire agreement negotiations we assure you that your safety is at the forefront and will not be jeopardized.

As Council we are in discussion and will be having further discussions on the boards, clubs, associations and society's that operate within our municipality and receive grants and operational funding. Funding requests are escalating as operating expenses soar and use stays stable or has reduced for various reasons. We respect and celebrate our volunteers who make our County one of the best to live in. These groups truly have brought communities together and been there to help all neighbors through joyous and difficult times. They have given much to their communities and have given tirelessly to their cause. With expenses, reduction in use and in some cases a loss of volunteers some of these organizations are dissolving and expecting to turn properties back to the County. First and foremost, the County has to review liabilities and hazards associated with these properties and then see if any group exists or could be formed to take on the operational aspect of the facilities so that they are available for all of the community to use. Failing this, the County would have to decide the fate of the properties as our recreational department and budget is limited to approximately 20% of a full-time position and funded to cover the grant portion of recreation and not set up to run camp grounds, ball diamonds, arenas or halls. This isn't part of our strategic plan and current budget, but if our overall County population wanted this we could look at setting up a department to manage this. A decision like this would require a lot of community engagement as this would result in a substantial increase to budget, therefore other cuts or tax increases would be a consideration. We pay out



Reeve Clarke responding to Minister Horner and Minister Dreesen's April 25 announcement at the Stettler Airport for \$18M in government funding for water, culvert and bridge infrastructure in our region.

\$150,000 in operational assistance funding annually, and \$50,000 in special recreation funding annually, plus we have a recreational agreement with the Town of Stettler that we pay approximately \$500,000/year annually to have access to the recreational facilities in town and so that these facilities are accessible to all County residents. These facilities in the county were built with volunteer time, donations, grants (municipal, provincial and casino funding) for the community and the assets should stay whole when a dissolution is proceeding to ensure they are as viable as possible to restart to keep these active in our community. They are the property of the community and County. There will be future discussions regarding funding levels and criteria and agreements on ensuring these facilities are built, funded, ran and dissolved and disposed with the best interests of the community and the County of Stettler ratepayers as they are the true owners of these assets.

Please drive safely on our roads, smile and wave as we have producers that have a lot on their minds right now and large equipment and recreation vehicles are making the roads very busy. As stated before please treat County of Stettler staff, all of our wonderful business frontline workers with respect as you would your neighbors as you deal with them as they are your neighbors.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Larry Clarke".

Larry Clarke,
REEVE

TOWN AND COUNTY TO CONTINUE AS PARTNERS IN FIRE SERVICE

Fire mediation discussions have resulted in a framework to modernize our joint regional fire agreement.

The County of Stettler and the Town of Stettler fire mediation discussions have resulted in reaching a mutually acceptable framework for the benefit of both the County and Town of Stettler. The County and Town will continue to support a joint Regional Fire Department together.

The County will begin making preparations to recruit a new County Fire Chief, with the Town maintaining a Town Fire Chief. Together, the Town and County will employ a new Manager of Regional Fire Services who will supervise, coordinate and support the Town and County Fire Chiefs, and make recommendations to each municipality's CAO's.

The County and Town would like to thank Municipal Affairs for their support of this mediation process and thank the Mediation Committee for negotiating this resolution in good faith.

Throughout negotiations, the Town and County have remained committed to negotiating a fair and equitable resolution for the benefit of our communities and citizens as a whole. The County of Stettler and the Town of Stettler have enjoyed the benefits of the previous joint regional fire agreement since 2007.

"We are very happy to have reached resolution for our fire service agreement and we feel confident moving forward that both Town and County

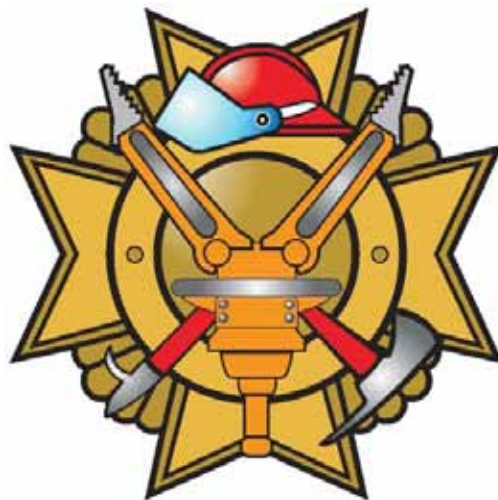
residents will continue to receive outstanding fire protection services. We wish to thank our partners at the Town of Stettler for joining us in mediation discussions, ensuring we are both able to continue providing an excellent and efficient joint regional service to our region." Larry Clarke, REEVE for the County of Stettler No. 6

"We feel that this Memorandum of Understanding will modernize upon our previous agreement to account for the differences in rural and urban firefighting,

and will safeguard our already exceptional fire services. We look forward to continuing our working relationship with the County of Stettler as we proceed with this process."

Sean Nolls, MAYOR for the Town of Stettler

Going forward, we'll be negotiating a new long-form agreement that will outline how we develop levels of service, responsibilities of the Chiefs and Manager, plus establishing a modernized Fire Advisory Committee.





2023 TASTE OF THE HEARTLAND: ON SALE NOW

Get your tickets for the 2023 Tour of the Summer!

Spend the day with the County of Stettler No. 6 and the Stettler Regional Board of Trade and Community Development to learn about the agricultural industry in our area.

Join us for our VIP Farm Tour where you will get to experience what living and breathing the rural lifestyle is all about. For \$25 you can jump on our big comfortable bus at 9:00 AM and relax into the country lifestyle as we take you on a tour through rural Alberta and introduce you to interesting and innovative agriculture business' in Stettler County. We'll feed you lunch, introduce you to some local delights and hidden treasures. At 3:00 PM we will complete our tour and then you can choose to head down to Historic Main Street Stettler for our beautiful Taste of the Heartland Long Table Dinner.

Join the fun as celebrity cooks compete for bragging

rights, to impress you with their unique and locally-flavoured hors d'oeuvres. Then we'll let our celebrity chefs delight you as they create a three-course meal prepared from locally-sourced (within 100 miles) ingredients...the definition of 'from farm...to fork!' Hors D'oeuvres start around 4:30 PM and this year we have a local band set to entertain us throughout the evening and following dinner.

Call your family, tell your friends and reserve your seats today to avoid disappointment.

- Farm to Fork VIP Bus Tour: \$25 and includes lunch.
- Long Table Dinner: \$60
- Buy the package and have a beautiful day: \$75

Saturday, August 12, 2023

Tickets at: www.tasteoftheheartland.ca



Taste of the HEARTLAND

Be immersed in the agricultural lifestyle with delectable food and rural hospitality right in the Heart of Alberta.

FARM TO FORK
VIP BUS TOURS

LONG TABLE
DINNER

HEARTLAND
MARKET

AUGUST
12
2023



Schedule

Farm to Fork VIP Bus Tours
9:00am - 3:00pm
(includes lunch)

Long Table Dinner
4:30pm Cocktails
6:00pm Dinner

Ticket Price

Farm to Fork VIP Bus Tours
\$25

Long Table Dinner
\$60

Full Day Package Deal
\$75



Stettler
REGIONAL BOARD OF TRADE

Limited tickets available
www.tasteoftheheartland.ca

PICTURE CREDIT TO JOEL HALL



SOUTH SHORE TRAFFIC STUDY

The County of Stettler, the Summer Village of Rochon Sands and the Summer Village of White Sands are partners in the Buffalo Lake Intermunicipal Development Plan (IDP).

The County of Stettler, the Summer Village of Rochon Sands and the Summer Village of White Sands are partners in the Buffalo Lake Intermunicipal Development Plan (IDP). This IDP identifies a growth node along the south shore of Buffalo Lake made up of lands in the County and lands in the two summer villages. Recently, the three municipalities were successful in obtaining grant funding from the province to undertake a traffic study.

The purpose of the South Shore Traffic Study is to

identify the long-term intersection and road network improvements needed to accommodate traffic and manage traffic related impacts as the growth node is further developed. Early identification of the required intersection and road improvements will position the County and the two summer villages to collect contributions of the anticipated capital costs as development progresses. It will also provide information for ongoing decisions about road maintenance and access sharing arrangements.

The project involves the following objectives:

1. Identify the best routes to upgrade to disperse traffic, avoid putting excessive traffic load on Bayview Street, and provide the best value for capital cost involved based on full build out of the entire growth node;
2. Identify the improvements needed to municipally controlled intersections and provincially controlled intersections based on the results of objective 1 above;
3. Identify interim measures to manage and direct traffic until such time as the long-term road network has been constructed (i.e. seasonal access gate along Bayview Street east of the marina or similar measures);
4. Provide cost estimates of options and improvements to allow consideration in decision making and setting of funding and cost recovery mechanisms.



The photo above shows the various roads and intersections that are being reviewed as part of the study. The orange area shows the lands in the County that are part of the growth node.



One Room Schoolhouses



The image of one room schoolhouses

The image of one room schoolhouses is recognizable to many communities across Alberta. Unfortunately, there are only a few of these structures that still exist that help to illustrate the origins of public education in Alberta.

We are wanting to preserve the history of our 75 plus schoolhouses that were in existence in the County of Stettler beginning in the early 1900's. The County of Stettler has been looking into grants and partnership opportunities in order to change the current signage to include a photo and history of each school house, in order to encourage tourism to the area and bring many fond memories back for those residents that once attended them.

To begin this incredible journey, that holds so much history, we are hoping that there are

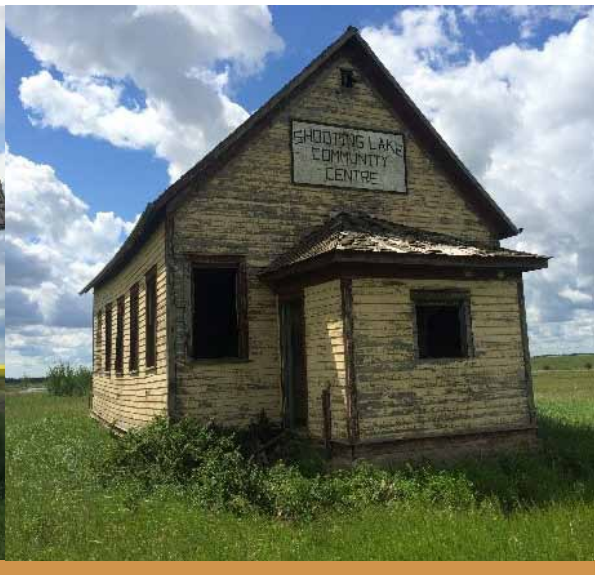


photos, or stories that can be shared with us that may be used on the new landmarks that we plan to install. If you have any information on our one room schoolhouses, have seen some school landmarks in other communities, or just have an interest in one room schoolhouses, we want to hear from you.

Please contact Lorraine Hankins at lhankins@stettlercounty.ca or call the County of Stettler Administration Office at 403-742-4441 ext 109.

Do you know?

If you have seen some school landmarks in other communities, or have an interest in one room schoolhouses, we want to hear from you!





Global News interviews Quinton Beaumont, Ag Services, and Reeve Larry Clarke on June 16.

County of Stettler Declares Agricultural Disaster Due to Drought

Lack of spring moisture leaves land stressed, entering prime growing season.

A very light snow pack with no run-off combined with an early and extended heat wave and no moisture led Council to declare an Agricultural Disaster in the County of Stettler on Wednesday, June 14, 2023 at their Regular Council Meeting.

After reviewing current conditions, as well as empty dugouts and wetlands throughout our region, Council made the serious decision to declare an Agricultural Disaster. Recent moisture maps and data for our region support this move.

"We're seeing exceptionally large numbers of livestock being dispersed at auction marts for this time of year, and producers are contacting us to report they are out of feed, cannot afford feed and looking ahead and realizing at this point that the probability of growing feed to support their operations is very, very slim," said Larry Clarke, Reeve for the County of Stettler No. 6. "Agriculture is a very big part of what we do here in Stettler County and of what fuels our economy and lives. We are hearing the pleas from our farmers and producers and we need to take action," he added.

Quinton Beaumont, Manager of Agricultural Operations added, "The Alberta Government has announced some pasture programs in light of the lack of pasture due to the wildfire situation in our province. While that is not a consideration in our area, we are seeing producers putting herds out into their hay fields, with no other options at hand beyond herd dispersals." Relief for the agriculture industry due to drought has not been announced at this time, and Council will use today's declaration to reach out to government to advocate for assistance and support for an agriculture industry battling drought in Alberta.

Moisture mapping data for our region, provided to the County of Stettler by the Agro-meteorology Applications and Modelling Unit, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry is available on our website at www.stettlercounty.ca.

County Council made this declaration of Agricultural Disaster June 14 and intends to encourage the Provincial and Federal Government to initiate programming to assist our agricultural industry and producers. The County of Stettler is the first municipality to declare an Agricultural Disaster in the Province of Alberta this year, due to drought.

For more information contact: Quinton Beaumont, Agricultural Services at 403-742-4441 or email asb@stettlercounty.ca.

WHY DO WE CONDUCT ANNUAL VEGETATION CONTROL IN DITCHES?

As summer kicks in, our roadside vegetation control program is now in full swing. Just another reminder about where we will be working and why!

As legislated under the Alberta Weed Control Act, the County of Stettler Agricultural Service Board will be conducting roadside vegetation control for invasive species in the north third of the County (north of Township 400, to the County of Camrose border and west of Range Road 164 to Buffalo Lake and the Red Deer River).

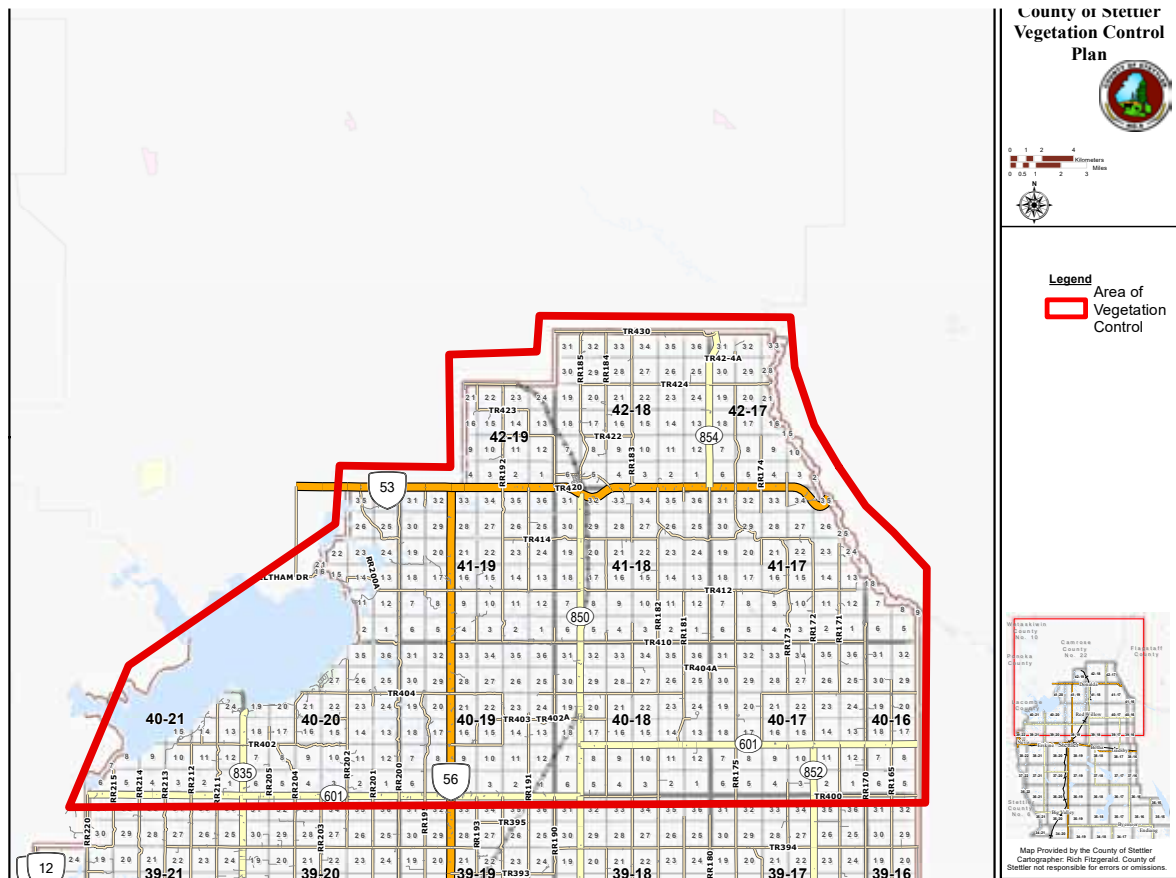
Adhering to Industrial Vegetation Management Association of Alberta standards, we will carry out the program for these reasons:

- Ease of snow removal in the winter.
- Reduce the risk of hitting wildlife by increasing the visibility and sightline.

- The roots of trees and shrubs do damage to roads. By removing them, the road will last longer.
- After heavy rainfall, the road will dry faster with less vegetation in the ditch to hold moisture.
- Control and destroy prohibited and noxious weeds.

If you prefer to control weeds and brush using methods that differ from the County's program, you are required to fill out a spray exemption form which is on our website, or call to have one sent. The deadline of acceptance of these forms is May 1.

Our program states there is to be not any vegetation control performed within 30 meters of your yard. For any questions regarding this program, or to fill out a Spray Exemption Form please call the Manager of Agricultural Services at 403-742-4441.



Fill out a Spray Exemption Form before May 5 if you reside in the above highlighted area and prefer to control weeds and brush yourself.

COMMUNITY INVESTMENT PROGRAM.

The County of Stettler recognizes community organizations should be supported in principle and with resources when it comes to assisting with the increasing costs of holding community events.

The Community Investment Program was introduced to manage these ongoing requests. Funding under this program is one-time and is not to be relied upon as a continuing source of income. Council fully expects community organizations to be self-sustaining and to develop working relationships with contributing partners.

Stettler County Council approved the following organizations funding for events at their June 14 Regular Council Meeting:

• Friends of Big Valley (Playground)	\$1,500.00
• Stettler Variety Showcase	\$1,000.00
• All Star Team (Archery)	\$1,000.00
• Big Valley Ag Society	\$1,500
• Big Valley Bust Out Rodeo	\$ 1,500
• Pheasant Festival (10th Anniversary)	\$ 500.00
• Culture Days	\$ 500.00

Stettler Town & Country Museum also had submitted a request for \$1,000 to support the 120 Years of John Deere Celebration August 13-16, 2023. This request will be considered through the Rural Development Fund. The Town and Country Museum receives annual funding and support from both the Town of Stettler and the County of Stettler.

Crafty Crew 4-H Club submitted a request for \$50 for a year end award, which will be funded as well, through a Councillor donation.

DO YOU NEED WATER? WE NEED TO KNOW!

In March and April, we surveyed to collect data for who might want or NEED water in the County of Stettler. We are still taking calls from some who now NEED or want to be added to the list. If you need/want County water, and have not provided us with your data, please do so by August 15.

In order for the County of Stettler to provide accurate data to apply for future grant applications, we are seeking your feedback on the subject of Rural Water. The County has rural waterlines, which many are connected to, but we know there is a need to

provide more so everyone has access to clean, safe, potable water. We are seeking response from every property owner in our County, so your property(s) is marked as 'counted'.

If you have previously expressed a need or interest in connecting to rural water, we ask that you please do so again through our 2023 survey, to reaffirm your interest.

Grant projects and funding are often based on density and needs. It is important everyone is counted. Please talk to your neighbors and ensure their needs are documented as well.

WHAT DO WE NEED FROM YOU? EXPRESS YOUR NEED.

Please go to StettlerCounty.ca/water and fill out a short survey which outlines how you currently provide your home and operations with water, and what your interest may or may not be to connect to a rural waterline. If you are unable to complete the survey online, please fill out the survey on the next page and return it to the County of Stettler Administration Office ASAP. Please ensure you provide your address and contact information with accuracy at the end of the survey, so we can accurately map your interest.

Please respond no later than August 15, 2023. Thank you in advance for your participation and assistance in accurately helping us record the rural water needs of our community. All surveys returned in July will receive a chance to win \$50 in Stettler Bucks.

Fill out our survey online.



2023 County of Stettler Rural Water Servicing Survey

Questions? Contact a County Councillor:

Larry Clarke | Botha-Gadsby Ward

403-740-5482 • lclarke@stettlercounty.ca

Ernie Gendre | Stettler Ward

403-740-6032 • egendre@stettlercounty.ca

Dave Grover | Big Valley

403-740-2973 • dgrover@stettlercounty.ca

Paul McKay | Red Willow-Donalda Ward

403-323-0779 • pmckay@stettlercounty.ca

James Nibourg | Erskine South-Warden Ward

403-741-9493 • jnibourg@stettlercounty.ca

Justin Stevens | Erskine-Buffalo Lake Ward

403-323-0568 • jstevens@stettlercounty.ca

Les Stulberg | Byemoor-Endiang Ward

403-740-5003 • lstulberg@stettlercounty.ca

RURAL WATER SERVICING SURVEY

Please circle the applicable answer, fill out form and send to address below, or fill out our online survey on previous page.

Where does your water come from?

- a. Water well
- b. We are already connected to a rural water line
- c. Hauled from a truck fill
- d. Other, please specify: _____

Do you have a reliable water source for clean, safe, potable water? If YES, please skip ahead to question 4.

- a. Yes
- b. No

If you haul water, what are you supplying with hauled water?

- a. Your household
- b. Livestock
- c. Other (include additional households, commercial operations, or community organizations):

The current fee to connect to a rural waterline is \$15,000. This connection fee can be paid up front, or the County can amortize payments over 15 years. There is also a monthly service fee and water rates vary depending on the source of the water, currently it is \$3.01/cubic meter as per the Water and Wastewater Bylaw. All of these rates are reviewed annually.

Given the above information, if a connection was available, would you connect to a rural waterline with your current or future development(s)?

- a. Yes
- b. No

Do you have future development plans that you would also want to connect to a rural waterline?

- a. Yes
- b. No

Please provide your contact information:

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Please provide your address(es) (in one of the following forms):

Blue Sign: _____

Land Location: _____

Lot Block Plan: _____

Return this survey to us by August 15, 2023

Mail to: County of Stettler No. 6

Box 1270, Stettler, AB, T0C 2L0

or drop at: 6602 – 44 Avenue, Stettler (there is a mail slot for after hours)

or email to: info@stettlercounty.ca

or fax to: 403-742-1277

BYLAWS AND POLICY UPDATE



Tax Rate: Bylaw 1696-23

Tax Rate 2023: On May 10, 2023, Council passed the 2023 Tax Rate Bylaw. This Bylaw outlines the tax rate increases that accompanied the Tax Notices of many County of Stettler ratepayers. For any questions, or to discuss your 2023 Tax Notice, call our office at (403) 742-4441.



Amendment to the Land Use Bylaw: Bylaw 1694-23

The Land Use Bylaw, a large framework for development of land and buildings within the County of Stettler. This includes the natural resources, like aggregate, and their mining and development. Bylaw 1694-23 amends the terms of the Sand, Gravel and Surface Mineral Extraction to limit permits to a maximum of five years.



Doctor Recruitment and Retention Incentive: Policy CN 1.10

Council for the County of Stettler has made recruiting doctors to our community a priority for economic development. As such, Council has set-up a reserve that pays new doctors a recruitment/retention incentive. This policy outlines the process for new doctors to receive the incentive.

QUICK COUNTY CONNECTION
BYLAWS & POLICIES *Get more info online*

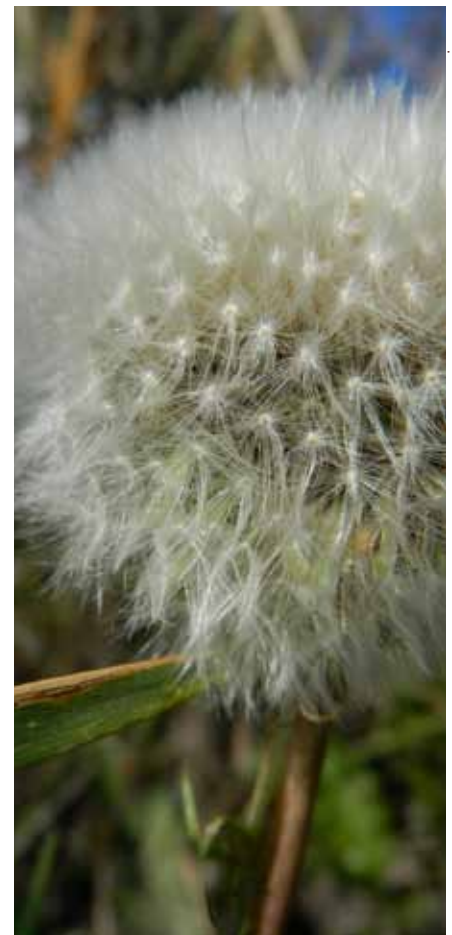


Updates to Agriculture Policies:

Council approved the following updated agricultural policies:

AG 3.2 Vegetation Control, AG 3.3 Control of Clubroot Diseases, AG 3.4 Tree Acquisition, AG 3.5 Wild Boar Control and AG 3.11 Grazing Road Allowances.

These policies make up the basis of the procedures of the Agricultural Services department. Visit StettlerCounty.ca to view these and all other County of Stettler policies.





STARTING DEVELOPMENT BEFORE APPROVAL? APPROVAL FIRST, CONSTRUCTION SECOND.

Starting to clear land and build before obtaining development permit approval comes with significant risks. You may be faced with a financial penalty in the form of an additional fee or fine. You could also be required to undo all the work that has been done.

The County of Stettler requires development permit approval for most changes to property. This approval must be given in writing before construction of the development begins. Some forms of development, like agricultural buildings, do not require a development permit approval. These are listed in the Land Use Bylaw under the heading “Development Deemed Approved.” If you are not certain about the permit requirements for your project please contact the County Development Officer at 403-742-4441.

The County’s Fee Bylaw includes penalties for developments that are started before a development permit application has been approved. Our policy is to apply these penalties based on a zero-tolerance approach. Our preference is to work with applicants as they plan their project.

Please contact the Planning and Development department when you start planning your development in order to ensure you obtain the required development permit and other approvals in a timely manner. This could also avoid any expenses that you may incur if your idea for your development does not comply with the County’s policies and bylaws (e.g. yard setbacks, road upgrades, etc.), so that you can make the necessary adjustments before you start digging or laying down concrete.

For further information, please contact the County’s Planning & Development Department at 403-742-4441.



OILFIELD UNPAID TAXES

“The vast majority of companies operating in Alberta’s energy sector pay their local property taxes but some have not, leaving municipalities with hard decisions about raising taxes for other taxpayers or cutting services.” Our municipality has been lobbying the government to change the process for companies in the energy sector for unpaid taxes for quite some time which has paid off. The Government of Alberta have issued a Ministerial Order to help resolve the issue of outstanding taxes owed to municipalities across the province.

DIRECTION TO THE AER

When considering an application for approval of a well licence to permit the drilling of a new well, or the transfer of a well licence, under applicable energy resource enactments as defined in the REDA, the AER must also consider whether the applicant for the licence (“applicant”), the proposed transfer of a licence (“transferor”), or the proposed transferee of a licence (“transferee”) has outstanding municipal tax arrears exceeding the threshold amount (established by the AER in consultation with the Assistant Deputy Minister responsible for energy resources policy at the Ministry of Energy and the Assistant Deputy Minister responsible for property tax policy at the Ministry of Municipal Affairs (“the threshold”). The AER shall require evidence and take reasonable steps to confirm that an applicant, transferor, or a transferee has no outstanding municipal tax arrears exceeding the threshold or has adopted a payment plan

acceptable to the municipality or municipalities that are owed the outstanding municipal taxes.

If the transferor has outstanding municipal tax arrears exceeding the threshold, the AER shall require evidence that the payment of the outstanding municipal taxes exceeding the threshold be a condition of the transferor and transferee’s agreement for sale of the licence. The evidence and reasonable steps referred to in the preceding paragraphs shall include:

- a) reviewing a list compiled by Municipal Affairs of licensees known to have outstanding municipal tax arrears exceeding the threshold in the fiscal year preceding the application, and confirming the applicant, transferor, or transferee is not listed,
- b) if the applicant, or transferee is listed, the applicant, transferor, or transferee must provide satisfactory evidence to the AER that arrears exceeding the threshold have been paid or

an alternative repayment arrangement with the municipality or municipalities to which the arrears are owed has been made,

c) if the transferor is listed, obtain evidence satisfactory to the AER that payment of municipal taxes owing exceeding the threshold by the transferor in Alberta is a condition of the agreement for purchase and sale of the licences that are the subject of the transfer.

d) conducting routine compliance audits under the usual AER standard operating procedures and applying regulatory enforcement tools available to the

AER if the applicant, transferor, or transferee provides false or misleading information about a payment or payment arrangement.

The AER shall implement this direction within a reasonable time and shall have all necessary operating procedures and business systems in place no later than close of business April 30, 2023.

The municipalities will be responsible to provide Municipal Affairs with a quarterly listing of outstanding taxes of delinquent companies to be provided to the AER. (March 15, June 15, September 15 and December 15).

Ministerial Order 043/2023

I, PETER GUTHRIE, Minister of Energy, pursuant to section 67 of the Responsible Energy Development Act, make the Municipal Tax Requirements for Approving Licences Direction, in the attached Appendix. DATED at Edmonton, in the Province of Alberta, this 16 day of March, 2023.

Honourable Peter Guthrie, Minister of Energy

Appendix - Licences and Unpaid Municipal Taxes – Purpose

The Minister of Energy is authorized by section 67 of the Responsible Energy Development Act, S.A 2012,

c. R-17.3 (“REDA”) to give directions to the Alberta Energy Regulator (“the AER”) for the purpose of:

a. Providing priorities and guidelines for the AER to follow in the carrying out of its power, duties and functions; and

b. Ensuring the work of the AER is consistent with the program, policies and work of the Government of Alberta in respect of energy resource development, public land management, environmental management and water management.

Acquiring and holding a licence or approval for energy development in Alberta is a privilege and not a right.

Albertans expect assurance that companies that obtain licences are able to meet their obligations for the entire life cycle of the development, including during operation and up to and including the end-of-life of the projects.

Albertans expect that these obligations should not be avoided by transferring licences to companies to the effect that risk is transferred onto members of the public, including municipalities and taxpayers.

There is an unreasonable risk to members of the public, including municipalities and taxpayers, in the AER granting an application for, or a transfer of, a licence where the applicant or transferee has unpaid municipal taxes.



**Celebrating 50
years of serving the
Town & County of
Stettler!**

403-742-2337
www.stettlerfcss.com
or follow us on social media

**We are here to connect you to
your community:**

- Community Navigation Services
- Federal/Provincial Application Assistance
- Family/Individual Counselling
- Senior Supports
- Budgeting Assistance
- Trauma, Grief & Loss Supports
- Life Coaching
- Harm Reduction/Addictions Support
- Rent Smart
- Public Access Computer

PUBLIC NOTICE

2023 Property Assessment/Tax Notice

Notice is hereby given that the Combined Property Assessment and Tax Notices for County of Stettler ratepayers have been prepared and mailed or emailed to all property owners.

The assessment roll is open for inspection at the County Office during regular hours of business.

If you have not received your notice by June 30, please contact the County Office at 403-742-4441.

An assessed person wishing to make a complaint must be done in accordance to the Municipal Government Act. The complaint must be in writing and submitted on the prescribed forms at the County Administration Building up to August 14, 2023 at 4:30 p.m. accompanied with a fee of \$50.00 (Residential and Farmland)

or \$100.00 (Non-Residential).

Please address the complaints to the attention of the Clerk of the Assessment Review Board.

Tax payments can be made by CASH, CHEQUE, INTERAC, Online or at most Financial Institutions. For more information please contact our office.

Dated this 7 day of June, 2023.

Yvette Cassidy, CAO

Complete our annual Budget Survey

Provide us with your feedback!

We are seeking our citizen's feedback as we begin to plan and prepare for Budget 2024. Please submit your input via this survey on or before September 28, 2023.

County Council will review all input gathered through this survey and our Public Budget Consultation, and consider it during planned Strategic Planning Sessions, as they begin to prepare Budget 2024.



Use the above QR Code to fill this survey out online, or fill it out below and return this copy to the County of Stettler at info@stettlercounty.ca or drop it off at 6602-44 Ave. Stettler, AB, or mail to Box 1270, Stettler AB TOC 2L0.

1. What services would you describe as essential, that you want the County of Stettler to provide? Please prioritize the following 1-15, using 1 as most important and 15 as least important.

Road maintenance: grading and snow plowing county roads

Snow plowing rural driveways

Graveling County Roads

Rural Water Service (waterlines to farms and acreages)

Building new roads

Bylaw enforcement control and patrols

Animal Control

Agricultural Support (weed control, patrol pest control - support and elimination).

Agricultural Education (workshops, keynote speakers, demonstrations).

Recycling and Waste Management

Rural Recreation Funding (assisting/providing community facilities with recreational funding and opportunities.

Cemetery Maintenance

Lagoons and Wastewater management

Emergency Management (Training, planning and preparing to respond to Large Scale emergencies or catastrophic events.

Fire Service to support rural residents and rural communities

2. Do you have any other concerns, thoughts or ideas you would like Council to consider as they plan their municipal priorities and budgets for 2024-2027?

3. Are there any services listed above that the County of Stettler provides, that you would recommend eliminating?

Please provide your Rural Address.

5. Additional Comments:

Thank you for providing the County of Stettler with your feedback.

County Council will review all input gathered during upcoming Strategic Planning Sessions, as they begin to prepare Budget 2024.

Stettler Health Services Foundation
2023 Charity

GOLF TOURNAMENT
AUGUST 12, 2023

Don't golf?
Join us for
supper!
\$40 per person

- 18 Hole Best Ball Format
- Hole In One Prizes
- Hole Prizes
- Games
- Golf Carts Included
- Supper and Silent Auction
- Join us for a 'hole' lot of fun!!

\$125
/person
\$500
/team

PHEASANTBACK GOLF COURSE **\$25 TAX RECEIPT PROVIDED**

PROGRAM SCHEDULE		REGISTRATION
Registration	10:00am	• Pheasantback Golf Course
Shotgun Start	11:00am	• Stettler Hospital Admin Office
Supper	5:00pm	• stettlerhealthfoundation.ca/golf

Payment Options:

- E-transfer: stettlerhealthservicesfdn@gmail.com
- Cheques: Stettler Health Services Foundation
- Credit Card

Proceeds support Health Care in Stettler and area

 Stettler Health Services Foundation

CHANGES TO SNOWPLOWING PROGRAM



Important pricing changes to note to the County of Stettler Snowplowing and Grading Programs.

Changes to Snowplowing

At the June 14 Council meeting, Council made changes to the snowplowing service and fees in the County of Stettler.

- The \$100 Inspection and Administration Fee remains in place. Each driveway must be inspected annually for insurance purposes. If you are signing up for laneway snowplowing for the season, you must pay a \$100 Administration and Inspection Fee, and sign the paperwork prior to an inspection being conducted of your laneway.
- In addition, a fee will now be applied every time we come to plow or grade your driveway. \$100/visit for the first 1/4 mile. \$50 for every 1/4 mile after that.
- We are preparing a procedure to allow residents to request snowplowing when needed, so that residents will control how often their driveways are cleared and the costs now associated with this service.
- The deadline to sign up and be part of our seasonal snowplowing program is the last working day in October, annually.

Cost associated with Snowplowing

Fee Bylaw 1700-23; Schedule C

4. Opening of Farm and/or Oil Access Roads after November 30: \$100.00 per hour

In accordance with Public Works Policy 2.27 – Snowplowing, farm and/or oil access roads will be opened only once upon request, at the grader operator's convenience and only once the Procedure's Order of Priority 1, 2 and 3 have been completed.

b. Administration, Application and Inspection for Snowplowing of Private Laneway: \$100.00 per season

Fees will be charged for the administration of inspecting the laneway each snow season and will cover that season only.

Snowplowing or Grading of Private Laneway
\$100 for the first ¼ mile
\$50 for each ¼ mile thereafter

In accordance with Public Works Policy 2.29 – Grading or Snowplowing Services to Private Property.

COUNTY IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Spring tour complete - please join us this fall!

The County in Our Community events that have happened this spring have offered our Council and Administration great opportunities to have discussions with our ratepayers. In March, we went to both Byemoor and Erskine, visited Big Valley in April and at the end of May we spent an afternoon at Ol' MacDonald's Resort. During these events, we have been able to discuss many important issues, including: our fire department, rural water access, the County of Stettler current and future budgets, recreation programming, road maintenance, pest/weed control, and the Land Use Bylaw. Thank you to our caterers, facility managers, the Stettler RCMP detachment, and Stettler FCSS for helping make these events a success.

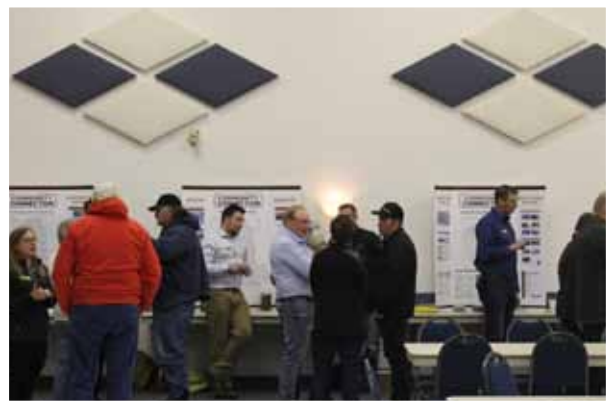
We are also excited to announce events for the late-summer/fall:

- *Stettler Agriplex on Tuesday, September 5, 2023.*
- *Botha Community Centre on Thursday, September 14, 2023.*
- *Red Willow Community Centre on Thursday, September 21, 2023.*

Visit StettlerCounty.ca to RSVP for an event near you.



Councillor Stevens - Erskine Event



Byemoor Event



CAO Cassidy & Councillor Grover - Big Valley Event



Ol' MacDonald's Resort Event



PHOTO CONTEST 2023

**ENTER OUR ANNUAL CALENDAR PHOTO CONTEST.
SUBMIT PHOTOS YOU'VE TAKEN OF OR IN THE COUNTY OF STETTLER.**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION OR FOR ANY QUESTIONS, EMAIL:
INFO@STETTLERCOUNTY.CA**

DIVISIONS:

- **YOUTH DIVISION (UNDER 18)**
- **ADULT DIVISION (18+)**



ALL ENTRIES MUST BE:

- **[SUBMITTED TO STETTLERCOUNTY.CA](https://www.stettlercounty.ca)**
- **YOU OR YOUR PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGN THE REQUIRED WAIVER**
- **A MAXIMUM OF 5 PHOTOS PER ENTRANT WILL BE ACCEPTED.**
- **CONTEST IS OPEN TO ALL COUNTY OF STETTLER RESIDENTS.**
- **AMATEUR PHOTOGRAPHERS ONLY.**
- **WINNERS WILL BE CHOSEN FROM ALL DIVISIONS.**

DEADLINE TO ENTER IS 11:59 PM ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2023



SUMMER AT THE STETTLER PUBLIC LIBRARY

Where fun knows no bounds!

Are you ready for a summer filled with adventure, laughter, and delightful moments? The Stettler Public Library is ready to make it unforgettable! Join us for a lineup of exciting events and activities that will keep everyone entertained. Dive into a world of imagination, adventure, and books!

Canada Day Festivities at the Stettler Museum: July 1, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Join us at the museum for some big games, crafts, Canadian photo booth and balloon animals! Our friends from the museum, Stettler FRN and Stettler FCSS will be there with tons of fun activities and food for you to enjoy. Show up before 11 a.m. to enjoy the pancake breakfast. We can't wait to see you there!

Summer Reading Club (SRC): July 3 – August 25. Join us for drop-in programs at the library, weekly family events, and the chance to win awesome prizes just for reading. We will be going out to Rochon Sands again on Wednesday mornings, meet us out there if you are in the area. Visit our website at <https://spl.prl.ab.ca/events/summer-reading-club> or stop by the library for more information and to sign up. Don't miss out on a summer of fun! Save the dates for family events and create lasting memories:

- July 7: Family Movie and Swim at the SRC
- July 14: Splash Park Fun
- July 21: Big Games at West Stettler Park
- July 28: Drum Circle with Felicity Weymer
- August 4: Mullen the Magician
- August 11: NERF War and Meteor Shower Party
- August 19: Amazing Race
- August 25: Wrap-up Party at Heartland Bowl

Teddy Bear Picnic: Monday, July 10 at 10:30 a.m. Bring your favourite teddy bear and enjoy enchanting stories, delightful songs, and scrumptious snacks. Capture a few precious moments with your little ones under the shade of the Memorial Park trees. Memorial Park is located next to the William E Hay Secondary Campus parking lot, on the North-West corner.

Unveiling the Heart of Alberta: Historic Ghost Walks: Embark on a journey through Stettler's rich history. Ghost walks will be taking place on July 7 and 8, August 11 and 12, September 8 and 15, and October 13 and 14. Sign up in advance, spaces are limited. Ages 10 and up, \$10 per person.

Minds in Motion Lite: Nurturing Minds and Building Connections: Minds in Motion is a program developed by the Alzheimer Society for people experiencing cognitive decline and their care partners. Engage your mind, build connections, and enjoy fun games, outdoor activities, and socializing with people experiencing similar journeys. Join us on Thursdays from 1 – 2:30 p.m. throughout July and August. We also offer a caregiver support group on the first Tuesday of each month at 1 p.m. Share tips, seek advice, and find solace in the company of others who understand the caregiving journey.

Al Anon: A Safe Haven for Healing: Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m.: Our Al Anon group offers support and understanding for those impacted by substance abuse. Meet others, share experiences, gain insights and find encouragement in a supportive community.

Reader's Circle: Summer Edition: Expand your love for books and read selections you might not pick yourself. We will be discussing Mexican Gothic by Silvia Moreno-Garcia on July 25 and The Sea of Tranquility



May The 4th Be With You event, a fun invitation from SPL, brought Town and County representatives together at SPL with their board members and *Friends of the Library*, to celebrate the ratification of the Intermunicipal Library Agreement (May 2020), which was just renewed for another 5 years. The Town and County have partnered in our library since before the legislation even defined Intermunicipal Library Boards. The legislation was later adapted and fit almost exactly what we were already doing! The paperwork in 2020 and again in 2023 makes it all official. The Town and County would be considered trailblazers in cooperation.

by Emily St. John Mandel on August 29. Request copies and join us for great discussions, we meet at 6:30 p.m. next to the library fireplace.

Crystal's Crafting Club: Unleash your Creativity! Join us twice a month for artistic adventures, regardless of your skill level. Discover new crafts and build lasting friendships.

There is so much to do at the Stettler Public Library, explore our website at spl.prl.ab.ca to learn more about our programs and services. Stay connected on Facebook or Instagram, schedule a personal tour or give us a call at 403-742-2292. We're here to make your library experience unforgettable. Wishing you all a fantastic summer!

Submitted by the Stettler Public Library



Reeve Larry Clarke, supporting the Stettler Public Library Event, and always a good sport - joining the fun that SPL staff provided for the May 4th celebration event.



2023 STETTLE PHEASANT FESTIVAL BANQUET - SATURDAY OCTOBER 14TH

TICKETS AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE ON OUR WEBSITE \$40 ea

5:30PM AT THE STETTLE COMMUNITY HALL

WWW.STETTLEPHEASANTFESTIVAL.COM

SHOTGUN DEMO DAY IS BACK SATURDAY 9AM-4PM

AT THE STETTLE TRAP CLUB

2023 HUNTS HAVE SOLD OUT!

WATCH OUR WEBSITE OR FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK
FOR 2024 HUNTS TO GO ON SALE



If you would like to be a part of our event as a Sponsor or Volunteer contact us at stettlerpheasantfestival@gmail.com

SAVE A TREE!



Get e-versions of County
Connection Magazine
by scanning our QR code. Email
info@stettlercounty.ca to cancel
your paper subscription.



COMMUNITY

The size of your community doesn't matter as much as the depth of your connection with them.

Chris Pirillo

You're invited to a
BLOCK PARTY
We'll have food, drinks & fun!
don't forget the sunscreen and bring a friend!

When & Where

- July 13th - Green Space on 60th Street, Stettler
- July 27th - Main Street Erskine
- August 3rd - Green Space behind the Alliance Church on 41st Ave, Stettler
- August 17th - Main Street Botha
- August 31st - Green Space on 66th Street, Stettler
- Sept 7th - Back to School BBQ Location TBA

For More Information Contact:
Marj 403-742-6288 | stettleragsociety1907@gmail.com

Logos: Stettler County, Family Resource Network, Stettler Agricultural Society, McMan.



ROCHON SANDS HALL AND REC BOARD PRESENT:

Summer Send Off Party

Saturday, September 2

- Pickleball Tournament
- Supper and Dance
- 6 PM Catered Dinner
- 8 PM - 11 PM Dance with the *Young Guns*
- All funds raised will be used to resurface the pickleball courts.
- For more information contact Carrie at 780-305-1375

COMMUNITY EVENTS

120 Years of John Deere

This summer the Stettler Town & Country Museum, together with the Stettler Antique Tractor Club and the Stettler P&H Elevator Preservation Society, are hosting an event celebrating 120 years of John Deere farm equipment. On Friday, August 11 to Sunday, August 13, 2023, visit the Museum to see John Deere equipment and memorabilia from the last 120 years. This three day event will showcase many displays and demonstrations, featuring:

- Threshing on a 130-year-old machine.
- Baling, using a horse-powered stationary baler.
- An antique tractor pull.

If you have any John Deere equipment or implements that are 50+ years, and are interested in having them displayed, please contact Alf Erichsen at (403) 742-4688.



Tax Assessment Notices Mailed or Emailed.

Combined Property Assessment and Tax Notices, for County of Stettler ratepayers have been prepared and mailed or emailed to all property owners.

The assessment roll is open for inspection at the County Office during regular hours of business.

If you have not received your Notice by June 30, please contact the County Office at 403-742-4441. See page 20 for more details.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Fill out our Budget Survey and provide Council with your input as they begin considering strategic priorities and budgeting for 2024 and beyond.

stettlercounty.ca/budget



Public Mail Agreement #41398593
Return Undeliverable Canadian Addresses to:
County of Stettler No. 6
Box 1270
Stettler, AB T0C 2L0