



Stettler County **CONNECTION**

FALL 2023

TAX DEADLINE

OCTOBER 31
INSIDE COVER





The 2023 County of Stettler Tax Payment Deadline is Tuesday, October 31, 2023 (the last working day in October).

A 10% penalty is applied on November 1 to all unpaid 2023 taxes.

Accepted methods of payment:

- Cash
- Cheque
- Interac
- Online Banking
(Please choose 'Tax' and use Roll Number or Customer ID)
- At most financial institutions

Another method of payment to consider is setting up an ONLINE BANKING PRE-AUTHORIZED – Autopay, through our Tax Installment Payment Program (TIPP). This program will spread tax payments out over 12 months.

In order to qualify for the TIPPS program, your taxes have to be at a zero balance. Application forms must be received prior to December 15. The amount of the

monthly tax payment is determined from your previous years taxes. For example, a tax bill of \$1,200 would be divided by 12 payments of \$100 per month. The payment of \$100 would begin in January and continue until the current year's taxes are levied. The balance of the year would be recalculated to equal what is left owing, to come to a zero balance at the end of the year.

We typically try to take payments on the first of each month. If you happen to miss two payments, you will be taken off the TIPPS program. Please contact our office for an application.

Tax payments continue to be collected at the County Administration Building at 6602 – 44 Avenue, Stettler, Alberta, Monday through Friday from 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM.

Please consider receiving your tax notices by email/electronic means. Call us at 403-742-4441 to find out how.



ON THE COVER

Donalda -Red Willow Fire Hall,
Station 3.
Back in Service.

Page 5

CONTENTS

- 3 REEVE'S RAMBLINGS**
Public engagement ongoing.
- 5 REGIONAL FIRE SERVICE**
Station 3 - Back in service.
- 6 SAFE TRAVEL FOR HARVEST**
Prepare for safe travels.
- 8 VIP FARM TOUR 2023**
Thank you to our hosts.
- 10 RECREATION FUNDING**
Deadline is October 15.
- 13 RURAL WATER SURVEY**
Results.
- 14 COUNTY IN YOUR COMMUNITY**
Next steps: Red Willow, Botha.
- 15 FIRE PROTECTION BYLAW**
Seeking your feedback.
- 16 WEED OF THE MONTH**
Leafy Spurge.
- 18 PROPER PLANNING**
Provide safe access.
- 20 INFLUENZA IMMUNIZATION**
Stettler District Ambulance.
- 23 VANDALISM**
It costs us and you \$\$.
- 24 ADVOCACY**
Ag disaster and Rural
Municipalities of Alberta.
- 26 STETTLER PUBLIC LIBRARY**
Spooky tales & creative painting.



2023 VIP FARM TOUR AND LONG TABLE DINNER



**PROPOSED FIRE PROTECTION
BYLAW FOR PUBLIC INPUT**



**ADVOCATING FOR AG
PRODUCERS. YOU CAN HELP.**



INTRO

“Kind words do not cost much. Yet they accomplish much.”

Blaise Pascal

We are wrapping up a busy summer while carefully preparing for winter. Preparing equipment, working on roads and washboard leftover from a hot dry summer. We all have our jobs to do.

If you have plans to have your laneway plowed this year by County forces, you will want to check out the new fee schedule attached to this service, available on our website, or call us for information. In addition to an inspection fee, laneways will be plowed for a fee of \$100/quarter mile.

If you are signing up, your hold harmless agreements and administration fee must be in by October 31. County forces will be out checking laneways for safety and putting up flags for those who have signed up and had inspections completed. Stragglers will be considered, but keep in mind there may be two-three week turnaround times for paperwork and inspections to be completed, and flags to be issued. If your paperwork happens to get dropped off in the middle of, or right before a snow event, the wait time will be longer as we complete the route in place before making more inspections and adding in latecomers.

The other day I was on the phone trying to sort out a ‘password’ situation. I’m sure a few of you can relate. I was frustrated, confused and miffed at the amount of red tape associated with fixing a ‘me’ problem. At the end of the call, as exasperated as I was, I thanked the customer service agent on the other end of the line. I believe my words were, “Thank you for your help today. You have the patience of a saint, dealing with the likes of us all day.” There was a very long pause on the other end of the line. I actually thought she may have hung up. Finally when she responded, I could hear her very patient tone had turned to one of happiness. She said, “That’s the nicest thing anyone has said to me. You just made my day.”

Kindness and kind words are free. It feels good.

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: Donaldia-Red Willow

Paul McKay

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6602-44 Avenue
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 and the thermometer on September 21 is 2 C with a forecasted high of 19. The rain yesterday was fairly widespread and would of shut producers down and may have caused some mutters, but it sure freshened things up and certainly brought in a breath of fresh air and cleared away the smoke for at least a little while. June and July rains made some crops with overall yields sounding good as combines have been running steady over the last month. We had hail in spots which lowered yields where the white combine hit. The rains did not save a lot of our counties watering holes, pastures and hayfields that have reported no or very dismal yields compared to typical yearly averages. We, as Stettler County Council, declared an Agricultural Disaster in June due to the lack of moisture and extreme spring heat. Many other municipalities followed suit throughout June and July. We have had correspondence and conversations with provincial departments and Ministers and our Federal member and federal agencies. We are seeking some relief for producers in sourcing winter feed or transportation costs. We continue conversations with our MLA and Provincial Agriculture Minister and staff. They, along with us are advocating to receive Federal support in this critical matter.

Council and staff held four evening community engagement sessions this spring which were very well attended with great conversations between ratepayers, councillors and departments. We held one evening in our Stettler ward on September 5 which

had a very low turnout for residents. This may have been due to combines running and kids just back to school plus a beautiful evening maybe took folks in different directions. Due to low RVSP's for Botha and Red Willow we postponed these events to November 16 in Red Willow, and November 28 in Botha. Please, if able, RSVP and attend one of these events, even if it isn't in your ward. It really is a great opportunity to hear what Council is planning and discuss specifics with department heads and provide input for our budget.

As discussed in earlier editions we were in mediation with the Town of Stettler regarding the Stettler Regional Fire Department. Through mediation we worked to a Memorandum of Understanding to maintain our joint Regional Fire Department. This will maintain our fire halls in Stettler, Big Valley, and Byemoor and once again a fully-functioning fire hall in Donalda. We, along with the Town of Stettler are currently in the interview process to hire a joint Regional Fire Manager who will report to the Town and County CAO's. This manager will oversee the Stettler region and be supported by a Town of Stettler Fire Chief and a County of Stettler Fire Chief (the County Chief will be hired through this process).

We are so fortunate to have a great group of volunteer firefighters throughout SRFD. Our rural stations are in the trusting hands of Jeff Klassen, Big Valley Platoon Chief; Jim Wasdal, Byemoor Platoon Chief; and Ben Wiens, Donalda Platoon Chief. Through the fire agreement negotiations, we assure

REEVE'S RAMBLINGS



County Council believes an important contributor to Economic Development in our communities, is having doctors to support our population and provide hospital care in our community. Council is committed to providing incentive funding for doctors moving to our community to fill necessary positions. A warm welcome was extended to Dr. Ojo who will be joining the Stettler Medical Clinic.

you that fire protection and safety remains at the forefront for all, and has not been jeopardized.

As Council we are currently in annual strategic planning discussions which sets the long-term plan for this Council. This process will be followed by budget discussions and how and where County funds will be spent on capital and operating projects. As all know there is no end to projects or places to spend these funds and projects and purchases have to be spaced out or financed to meet requirements and financial obligations.

Capital replacement of equipment has escalated to rates never seen before while the request for the services this equipment and manpower performs continues to grow. Roads, bridge and culvert replacements, brushing, spraying, dust abatement, paving, waterline installs, water and sewer system operations, sewer line replacement, sewer lagoon repairs, drainage repairs, recreation, development of recreational areas and parks and pathways, fire protection, insurance, joint agreements with neighboring municipalities, asset management plans and development agreements are only a portion of what things require labour and funds for a municipality to meet the intentions of the Municipal Government Act (MGA).

We have open YouTube broadcasts of Council, Municipal Planning, Agriculture Services and Special Meetings. These sessions are also recorded so you may watch at your convenience. We hold annual Public Budget presentations and utilize County

Connections Magazine, Facebook and the County website to keep our residents informed.

We have a small number of residents and developers who are misinformed or forget where municipal funds come from. Municipal funds come from every taxpayer within the County of Stettler or MSI funding, gas tax or grants that come from the Alberta and Federal Governments which are also taxpayer funded. Legal expenses have escalated over the past several years to ensure the municipality is protecting ratepayers' assets to the best of our ability in these dealings and land purchases as these projects move forward.

We will continue to conduct business in these matters to protect your assets, ensuring all ratepayers and businesses within the County of Stettler are meeting the same regulations and standards and are treated the same.

Please drive safely on our roads. Smile and wave at our agricultural producers who have a lot on their minds right now. They are travelling in large equipment trying to finish getting crops in and taking cattle to better pastures or market. As always please treat County of Stettler staff and all of our wonderful business frontline workers with respect as you would your neighbours.

Larry Clarke, REEVE

DONALDA-RED WILLOW FIRE DEPARTMENT. BACK IN SERVICE

Practices are Wednesday nights and Station 3 is recruiting. If you want to learn more, contact Station 3 Platoon Chief, Ben Wiens.

Station 3, Donalda-Red Willow was proud to go back into service on July 27, 2023. Volunteer firefighters were gathered for their weekly training night when we stopped by in September.

Training nights in at Station 3 occur on Wednesday evenings. While firefighting is a volunteer position, there is a training fee paid to volunteers for training nights, as well as an hourly rate paid when firefighters respond to alarms.

Interested in more information, or want to learn how you could get involved? Contact us. 403-742-4441.



Back Row L to R: Firefighters Paul McKay, Karl Torkelson, Roy Fulton, Ernest Wipf, Mike Mueller, Don Coleman, Colin Foot, Spencer Shwetz, Duncan Charles and Platoon Chief Ben Wiens.

Front Row: Archie

Missing: Firefighters Bobbi Bachman, Gary Blouin, Tessa Dubitz, George Hofer, Brian Hofer, Josh Hofer, Levi Hofer, Titus Hofer, Carl Johnston and Dan Olsen



SAFE TRANSPORTATION TIPS: FOR MOTORIST AND FARMERS

Agriculture is a cornerstone of Alberta, and Stettler County's economy. Transporting farm equipment on public roads is a common practice. To ensure the safety of both farmers and motorists it's crucial to follow traffic safety guidelines and best practices. You can help prevent farm equipment collisions on public roads by focusing on three main areas: making your equipment safe and visible, following safe driving tips, and driving defensively.

Ensuring Equipment Safety and Visibility:

- 1) **Regulated Lighting and Signage:** Comply with lighting and signage regulations, including Slow-Moving Vehicle (SMV) signs, which should be clean and properly mounted on the rear of your equipment for visibility.
- 2) **Tire Maintenance:** Regularly inspect tires for air pressure, damage, and tread wear to prevent tire-related accidents.
- 3) **Brake Pedal Lock:** Lock brake pedals together when on highways to avoid skids during sudden braking.

- 4) **Load Matching:** Ensure loads match your vehicle's braking capacity to prevent issues during sudden stops.
- 5) **Safety Equipment:** Equip your tractor with mirrors, warning triangles, and fire extinguishers for added safety.
- 6) **Proper Lighting:** Keep all lights clean and functional to enhance visibility.

Safe Driving Tips:

- 1) **Choose Less Busy Roads:** Opt for less crowded roads, even if it adds travel time.
- 2) **Qualified Drivers:** Use trained and licensed drivers to operate equipment.
- 3) **Caution at Rural Railway Crossings:** Always stop and check for oncoming traffic at poorly visible rural railway crossings.
- 4) **ROPS and Seatbelts:** Install Rollover Protective Structures (ROPS) on tractors and wear seatbelts as ROPS effectiveness relies on seatbelt use.



For Motorists:

1. **Stay Alert:** Watch for slow-moving farm equipment on roads, adjust your driving, and extend courtesy.
2. **Maintain Distance:** Slow down, keep your distance, and ensure it's safe before passing.
3. **Patience:** Exercise patience when passing, and checking for approaching vehicles.

- 5) **Appropriate Speed:** Maintain control by traveling at a safe speed, especially during turns and on hills.
- 6) **Observe Manuals:** Follow manufacturer's road travel guidelines, especially when descending hills.
- 7) **Stay Alert:** Be vigilant for hazards such as soft shoulders, narrow bridges, and gravel roads.
- 8) **Yield to Traffic:** Pull over to let traffic pass when a suitable shoulder is available.
- 9) **Nighttime Travel:** Transport equipment in daylight when possible, using proper lighting for nighttime driving.
- 10) **Signal and Slow Down:** Signal turns and reduce speed when leaving the road or pulling onto shoulders.
- 11) **Oversized Equipment:** Plan routes carefully for oversized equipment and use pilot vehicles if taking a route with hills and curves to warn oncoming traffic.

- 12) **No Extra Riders:** Avoid distractions and safety risks by not allowing extra riders on equipment.

Equipment Requirements:

1. **Brakes:** Ensure self-propelled farm equipment has functioning brakes.
2. **Rearview Mirror:** Equip tractors and implements with rearview mirrors.
3. **SMV Sign and Warning Flags:** Properly display SMV signs and use warning flags when needed.

Nighttime Travel Requirements:

Use headlights and tail lamps for nighttime travel.

Legal Weights and Dimensions:

Familiarize yourself with legal weights and exceptions for commercial vehicles and farm trailers.



TASTE OF THE HEARTLAND VIP FARM TOUR 2023

We gathered for the 2023 Farm Tour on August 12, 2023.

Thank you to our wonderful hosts for accommodating our 2023 VIP Tour!

- G3 Canada
- Spirit's Respite Ranch
- Ford's Farmstead
- Stettler Museum - '120 Years of John Deere'

Once our farm tour concluded, more than 180 guests, volunteers and vendors gathered on Main Street, Stettler for the Taste of the Heartland Long Table Dinner. What a feast! Thanks to all our chefs!

Mark your calendars for August 17, 2024 and watch www.tasteoftheheartland.ca for news and ticket sale dates next spring!





FORD'S FARMSTEAD



SPIRIT'S RESPITE RANCH



SPIRIT'S RESPITE RANCH



SPIRIT'S RESPITE RANCH



SPIRIT'S RESPITE RANCH

Recreation Special Project Funding

Mark your calendars for the new RSPF deadline.

Recreational Special Project Funding (RSPF) was first established in 2006 in order to set aside funds to help with the construction and/or enhancement of recreational facilities. This funding was established in order to serve the needs of the County's rural population outside of the Town of Stettler, with the exception of properties owned by the Stettler Agricultural Society.

The maximum funding available to be awarded in 2023 year is \$50,000.00. A new information booklet has been developed to accompany the application. In it we provide more information on the program and the projects that are eligible under the guidelines.

The information and application form are available at the front counter of the County of Stettler.

County Council has approved the new deadline to apply which is October 15, 2023 each year.

This will provide our staff with more time to review applications to ensure they are complete, before they are evaluated by the Regional Recreation Board.

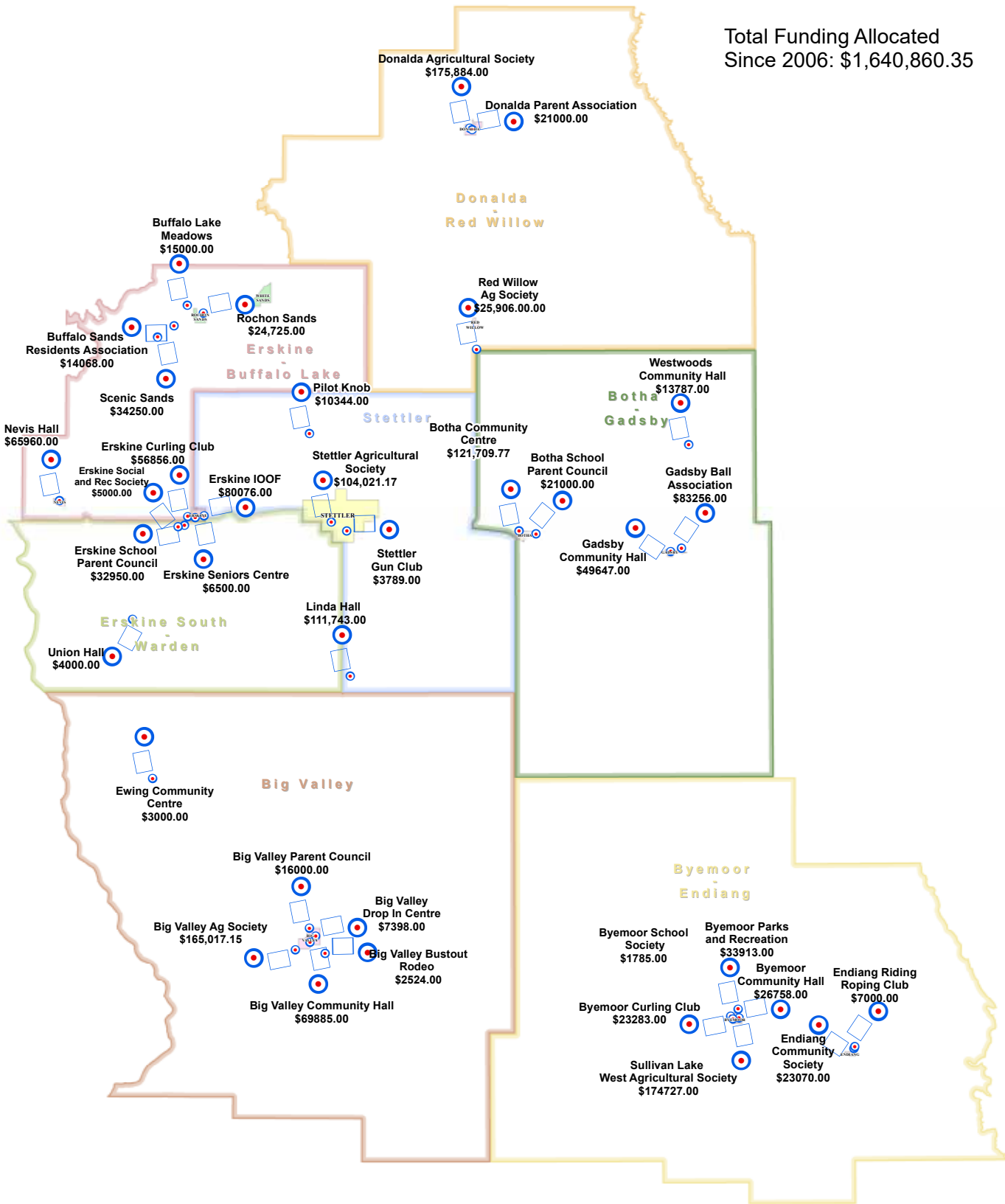
New Deadline

County Council has approved a new deadline for RSPF applications: October 15, annually.



County of Stettler Recreation
Special Project Funding
 2006-2022

Total Funding Allocated
 Since 2006: \$1,640,860.35





The
HALLELUJAH
GIRLS

presented by **HATS**
HEARTLAND ARTS TROUPE

**DINNER
THEATER**

**NOVEMBER
8-11 2023**

Doors open at 6pm

*Only 4
nights!*

A Comedy by:
**J. JONES
N. HOPE
J. WOOTEN**

Stettler Community Hall
Dinner by TC Catering

Tickets available at Wells Furniture \$65

RURAL WATER SURVEY

THANK YOU

A big thank you to the County of Stettler residents who took the time to fill out our 2023 Rural Water Survey. During our two collection periods (April and Summer 2023) we have received over 140 responses from across the County of Stettler. Here are some of the results from the survey:

- **79.6% of respondents currently access water through a water well.**
- **28.9% of respondents do not currently have a safe, clean and reliable source for water.**
- **Currently, 66.2% of respondents would connect to a rural waterline if it was available.**

The dry conditions we experienced this year have stressed the need for accessible water for our rural ratepayers and their livestock.

With Strategic Planning workshops this fall, and in preparation for the 2024 Budget workshops happening throughout November, the Rural Water Survey data will assist Council with making decisions about waterline expansion for the upcoming year and assist in upcoming grant funding applications.

If you have questions, or a need to connect to a rural waterline, contact us in-person at the Administration Office at 6602-44 Avenue, over the phone at 403-742-4441, or by email at info@stettlercounty.ca.

RESCHEDULED! FALL 'COUNTY IN YOUR COMMUNITY' EVENTS

We invite you to join us for dinner and conversation at our FALL, County in your Community events!

Postponed from earlier this year, we will be coming out to:

- Red Willow Community Hall
Thursday, November 16, 2023
6:00 PM
- Botha Community Hall
Tuesday, November 28, 2023
6:00 PM

County ratepayers are invited to join us for dinner and conversation with staff and Council. We are prepared to share information about current programs and projects with you, as well as budget planning information and Council's latest Strategic Plan which helps guide us, or come talk to us about the Fire Protection Bylaw on page 15.

WHAT DO WE NEED FROM YOU?

Please RSVP to www.StettlerCounty.ca/Gather no later than November 9 for the Red Willow event, and no later than November 21 for the Botha event or call 403-742-4441 to register by phone.

Bring your questions, your concerns and your appetite and plan for an evening out with your neighbors.



Busy? Contact any County Councillor with your questions:

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

PROPOSED BYLAW 1706-23: FIRE PROTECTION

Submit your feedback:

Fire service has been a big discussion this year for the County of Stettler and we're proud to continue providing strong, volunteer-based fire services for our ratepayers across the County of Stettler.

This year the Donalda Fire Station reopened with a great group of volunteers, the Byemoor Fire Station was updated and there are even more changes along the way.

Currently, the County and the Town of Stettler are updating their joint fire agreement. The County of Stettler has begun a full-review of our fire administration, including Bylaw 1240-03: Fire Permit Bylaw.

Bylaw 1240-03: Fire Permit Bylaw, is over twenty years old and as such, does not reflect more recent changes to our fire services.

On July 12, 2023, Council gave the proposed new Bylaw 1706-23: Fire Protection Bylaw its first reading. Bylaw 1706-23 is an update to the County Fire Bylaw.

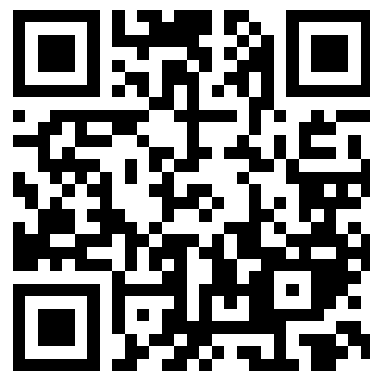
Some of the proposed changes include:

- Delegates all authority to the County of Stettler No. 6 Chief Administrative Officer (instead of individual County staff members), allowing the CAO to delegate authority as needed. This allows for more flexibility and longevity as titles and management structures change over time.
- Additions in Section 5 which requires a **permit for fireworks**. Previously, there was only the requirement to obtain a County Fire Permit. This new section outlines the oversight requirements.
- The current draft see the addition of Section 7.2, prohibiting the lighting of outdoor fires, structure fires, and incinerator fires (burn barrels) in hamlets and multi-lot subdivisions.



County Council is also prepared to discuss changes to the fee structure and penalties. These changes are not amended in the current proposed draft. Any fee changes would be a part of a future update to our Fee Bylaw.

To view the proposed draft Fire Protection Bylaw, the current Fire Permit Bylaw, and to submit your feedback, please visit StettlerCounty.ca/FireBylaw or scan the QR Code below.



Alternatively you may also email your feedback to info@stettlercounty.ca or send your fax to: 403-742-1277.

BYLAWS AND POLICY UPDATE



Bylaw 1702-23

At the July 2023 Council meeting, Bylaw 1703-23 was presented before Council. This Bylaw amends the administrative procedures for processing Development Permits and Subdivision Applications. These changes are designed to provide more flexibility, ensure consistency, and more accurately reflect County of Stettler practices.

QUICK COUNTY CONNECTION
BYLAWS & POLICIES

Get more
info online



At our September Council meeting, Council welcomed Staff Sergeant Cam Russell back to our community, who visited Council along with Corporal Ryan Scott.

WEED OF THE MONTH LEAFY SPURGE

Leafy spurge is a long-lived perennial that was introduced as either an ornamental or crop seed contaminant in the early 1800's. It reproduces primarily by re-sprouting from its extensive, persistent, creeping root system, but also by seed. Leafy spurge roots can extend

4.5 m laterally and about 9 m deep.

Leafy spurge forms dense stands over time, and a large plant can produce up to 130,000 seeds. All parts of the plant contain a milky colored latex that can poison livestock and cause skin irritation on humans. Cypress spurge is very similar in appearance, but leafy spurge is taller, has longer leaves, and less branching in the upper part of the plant.

Habitat: Native to much of Europe and Asia, it is adapted to a wide variety of site conditions. It grows



on a range of soil types and tolerates very dry to very wet climates, but does require some warmth for good growth. Seasonal flooding of riparian infestations can distribute seed long distances.

Stems: Stems are arranged in clumps, smooth and hairless, grow up to 1 m tall and contain a milky latex.

Leaves: Leaves are numerous and attached directly to the stem, arranged alternately or sometimes spirally. The leaves are up to 7 cm long, narrow, waxy, have smooth edges and are bluish-green in color, turning yellowish or reddish-orange in late summer.

Flowers: Flowers are small, yellowish-green, lack both petals and sepals, and are supported by two green, heart-shaped, leaf-like bracts, arranged in numerous small clusters.

Seeds: Seeds are about 2 mm, smooth, oblong, light gray to dark brown in color and grow in pods on top of the bracts.



When mature the dried seed pods explode, distributing seed as far as 5 m from the parent plant.

Prevention: Producers should exercise caution when using hay from road ditches and when purchasing hay from known infested areas. Use weed seed free hay, isolate animals for a week that were in an infested area so that all the seeds can go through the animals body, wash the under carriage of vehicles in a commercial area making sure all seedlings; stems; flowers; etc. are washed down the drain, and don't get soil or gravel from an area infested with leafy spurge.

Control: Leafy spurge is extremely resilient and a combination of control methods will be necessary to achieve significant control.

Grazing: Sheep and goats will readily graze leafy spurge and are not affected by the toxic juices in the stems. The subsequent resprouting will weaken the plants by diminishing root reserves. However there is the risk of seed being carried by the animals to uninfested locations.

Cultivation: There are two types of cultivation for leafy spurge; intensive throughout the growing season, and fall-only cultivation. Intensive cultivation programs should begin two to four weeks after leafy

spurge emerges in the spring. Till at least four inches deep every three weeks until the soil freezes for one or two years. Fall only cultivation should be done when the regrowth of leafy spurge is three to six inches tall, and should be repeated for three years.

Mechanical: Hand-pulling and mowing is in-effective other than on small, young infestations. Wear gloves and wash after handling leafy spurge to avoid skin rashes.

Chemical: 2,4-D, Amitrole, Dicamba, Glyphosate, Imazapyr, MCPA and Picloram are registered for use on leafy spurge. Always check product labels to ensure the herbicide is registered for use on the target plant in Canada by the Pest Management Regulatory Agency. Always read and follow label directions. Consult your local Agricultural Fieldman or Certified Pesticide Dispenser for more information.

Biological: Five flea-beetles and two moths have been imported for biocontrol of leafy spurge. Flea-beetle larvae are root-feeders and adults consume shoot and leaf tips.

For further information, please contact the County's Agricultural Services Department at 403-742-4441.



Planning for safe and functional access to your site.

One of the key items County staff check as part of development approvals and subdivision approvals is the ability to provide a safe and functional access, or approach, to the site.

This takes place as part of our site visit to your project.

The main safety aspect is the available sight distance for a driver pulling out of the property and onto a County road to be able to see any oncoming vehicles and for a driver of an oncoming vehicle to see the vehicle coming out of the access. For the driver of the oncoming vehicle the sight distance is meant to give the driver reaction time, or thinking time, and account for the braking distance to come to a full stop after the brakes are applied. The County uses a 160m sight distance requirement for an access onto a road with a speed of 80km/hour and an 85m sight distance requirement where the road has a speed

of 50 km/hour.

The functional aspects of the access that are checked at the same time include: the width of the approach, distances away from an intersection, the need for a culvert, and ways to shed water from the approach into the ditch rather than onto the County road surface.

If you are planning a development, new access or a possible subdivision, please contact the Planning and Development department to see how your proposed access meets the requirements.

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



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 and Development Department at 403-742-4441.

INFLUENZA IMMUNIZATION

The influenza season is fast approaching. Stettler District Ambulance Association would like to support efforts and education initiatives to spread the word about annual influenza immunizations.



What is influenza?

Influenza is an infection of the nose, throat, and lungs (respiratory tract) that is caused by a virus. Influenza can happen any time of year, but most cases happen in the winter months.

How is influenza spread?

Influenza is spread through the air. The virus gets in the air when someone with the disease coughs, sneezes, or even talks. People who breathe in the virus can get sick. It can also be spread by touching objects that have been coughed or sneezed on by someone with the virus.

How serious is influenza?

Most people who get sick with influenza get better. But, influenza causes about 12,000 people to get admitted to the hospital and about 3,500 deaths in Canada each year.

Complications of influenza can include pneumonia, ear and sinus infections, and dehydration. Influenza can also make chronic medical problems (e.g., congestive heart failure, asthma, diabetes) worse.

There is a higher risk of getting complications from influenza for:

- babies
- pregnant women
- people 65 and older
- children 6 months up to 5 years
- people with chronic health problems

What are the symptoms of influenza?

The symptoms of influenza are:

- fever (temperature of 38.5°C or 101.3°F or higher) that starts suddenly
- cough
- headache
- muscle aches
- loss of appetite
- feeling tired

How can influenza be prevented?

- **Get the influenza vaccine.** Influenza vaccine is a very effective way to protect people from getting sick with influenza. You need to get immunized every year because the influenza viruses change. A new vaccine is made each year to protect against the viruses most likely to cause illness in that year. The best time to get immunized is in October or November, but you can get immunized any time during influenza season.
- **Wash your hands** with soap and water or clean your hands with a hand sanitizer that has alcohol in it. For more information, see: [Clean Your Hands](#).
- **Cover your mouth and nose** with your arm or a tissue when you cough or sneeze.
- **Stay home** and rest when you are sick.

Is the influenza vaccine safe?

Yes. In Canada, vaccines undergo laboratory and field-testing. They must pass a strict licensing procedure with the federal government before they can be used. Once a vaccine has been approved for use, every lot is tested for safety and quality. You can't get influenza disease from the influenza vaccine.

Who should get the influenza vaccine?

All Albertans 6 months and older should get the influenza vaccine. It's very important for people who have a higher risk for complications from influenza. It's also important to immunize anyone who might spread influenza to people at high risk of influenza-related complications like healthcare providers and other caregivers.



Good health isn't contagious. Influenza is. Chances are, you don't want influenza anymore than your loved ones do.

Getting your influenza immunization every season is the single most effective way to protect yourself from influenza.

All Albertans six months of age and older should be immunized each season.

Protect yourself. Protect others. Get immunized. Why chance it?



Cover Your Cough:

Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when sneezing or coughing.

If you don't have a tissue, always cough or sneeze into your arm, not into your hands.

Throw away tissues after wiping your nose or covering a cough, and wash your hands.



Clean Your Hands:

Using soap and warm water, wash your hands thoroughly and often, including after coughing, sneezing, using tissues or the washroom, and before eating or preparing foods.

Alcohol-based hand rub or sanitizer can also be helpful if hands are not visibly soiled.

Make a point of keeping hands and fingers away from your eyes, nose and mouth.



Stay Home When Sick:

If you have symptoms of illness, including fever, cough, headache and extreme tiredness, stay home from work, school, daycare, or any social function.

Please also refrain from visiting family, friends or loved ones in hospitals, care facilities or seniors lodges, until you have fully recovered from any illness.



STETTLER'S 26th ANNUAL

Festival of Lights

NOVEMBER 28th - DECEMBER 2
Stettler Community Hall 5101 - 46 Avenue
Silent auction open to the public for bidding:
Tuesday to Thursday 12 p.m.- 5 p.m. and Friday 10 a.m.- 1 p.m.
Bidding Closes December 1st at 1 p.m. Admission: Cash Donation

ARTISAN CHRISTMAS MARKET
Open during public hours as listed & during all special events. The market features local handmade items including sweets, quilted items, home decor, furniture, paintings, and much, much, more.

Tickets for Special Events Go On Sale
October 2nd at Grate Kitchen

Tuesday, November 28th
ATCO PANCAKE BREAKFAST
Served: 7- 9 a.m. Adults: \$10
Kids: \$5 (ages 5-10) (4 & under are free) (GF)

CHRISTMAS SPIRITS 7-9 P.M.
Advance tickets only: \$40
Seasonal drinks, snacks and entertainment featuring: The Jazz Guys

Wednesday, November 29th
SENIORS TEA
1:30- 3:30 p.m. Admission at the door: \$5

ART & CHEER
7- 9 p.m. Advance Tickets Only: \$45
Create your own customized art project

Thursday, November 30th
CANALTA A&W BURGERS & BEER FAMILY NIGHT
5- 7 p.m. Tickets at the door
Adults: \$15 Kids: \$10 (ages 5-10)
(4 & under are free) (GF)

Friday, December 1st
HOLLY JOLLY LUNCH
11:30 a.m.- 1 p.m.
Admission at the door: \$15 a person (GF)
Kids: \$10 (12 & under)
Join friends & co-workers for a hot lunch, market & final bidding on silent auction items

Saturday, December 2nd
DINE, DANCE & AUCTION SNOWFLAKE GALA
Advance tickets: \$65
(\$5/ ticket discount if you buy 8+) (GF)
Cocktails: 5:30 p.m. Dinner: 6:30 p.m.
Silent & Live Auction
Entertainment by: Klay Tate Productions
We encourage you to wear white to the snowflake gala

*All Proceeds Support
The Stettler Health Care Centre*

www.stettlerhealthfoundation.com

VANDALISM

It costs us all.

Vandalism incidents are increasing in the County of Stettler all the time. These incidents are first and foremost a safety concern, with 'Stop' and 'Yield' signs being removed regularly throughout our County. With the increased incidents we are gravely concerned someone will run through an intersection that has been vandalized and be involved in a collision, cause damage, injury, or worse.

The second concern we have is reduced service. Last month the Walker Well, an agricultural water fill station in the southern part of our County, was vandalized. This hurts every producer struggling to provide water to livestock and farming operations during this drought as we note dugouts are dried up everywhere. What is more frustrating, is that this well is FREE. It provides access to free water for our ag producers. Senseless.

Finally, cost. Every time a sign is removed from an intersection, if the post has been 'pulled out' like has been happening increasingly often, and the hole is no longer be found, we are required to make a 'One Call'. Then we have to replace a sign, there is a cost to each sign, and we have to mobilize our crews and equipment to first place a temporary sign, and second, return for the install once the 'One Call' is complete. There is equipment costs, wear and tear, fuel, and wages. When this happens on a weekend, add in overtime.

Last month, a sign was removed, a \$5,000 Traffic Counter was detached and senselessly vandalized and destroyed. This costs the County money and in turn, you. The traffic counters are installed to provide us with accurate road data so we can plan for improvements, widenings, increased maintenance if required, all based on traffic counts. These are not speed radars. They are not cameras. This destruction is senseless, costly, a huge waste of time, and frustrating to us as we have to use valuable resources and spend taxpayer money to fix and replace these, and we still have to go back and re-collect the data that is lost.

If you would like to report vandalism or crime in the County of Stettler you

can do so anonymously through Crime Stoppers Alberta at 1-800-222-8477, or, call our Protective Services Department at 403-742-4441.

We would love to get back to the important work at hand and quit wasting dollars on senseless repairs and replacements.



Recent Replacements

Yield Signs:

- TWP 374 and RR 212A
- TWP 384 and RR 215
- TWP 384 and RR 220
- TWP 382 and RR 170

Stop Signs:

- TWP 410 and RR 200
- TWP 412 and RR 200
- TWP 344 and RR 202
- TWP 344 and RR 201A

\$5000 Traffic Counter

- TWP 40-2 east of 4-Way Stop (Buffalo Lake)

ADVOCACY

Agricultural Disaster

The County of Stettler No. 6 Council declared an Agricultural Disaster on Wednesday, June 14, 2023 at their Regular Council Meeting. This decision was in response to the drought conditions affecting crop and livestock producers throughout the County. We predicted low yields of crops, while hay fields are being utilized for grazing and as feed for livestock. Additionally, we noted large numbers of cow/calf pairs being run through the Auction Marts this spring, which will be further affecting bottom lines for our producers.

The continuation of short water supplies on our lands has led to line-ups at our seasonal agricultural watering stations as well as at our truck fill stations throughout the County of Stettler. We have continued to see an increased demand for water access from rural waterlines, and at our truck fill stations throughout the summer and into the fall.

This is not the first time the County of Stettler has had to declare an Agricultural Disaster due to drought. In 2021 an Ag Disaster was declared and the Albertan Government announced a relief program for livestock and bee farmers. While this program was not perfect – there is a current need for a feed and transportation assistance program. Council has been in correspondence with Provincial and Federal representatives. In August, Alberta’s Minister of Agriculture sent a response letter urging lobbying of our Federal Government for a Livestock Feed and Transportation Program. Council continues to lobby for financial support for our ag producers. You can help by sending your support for assistance to the Honourable Lawrence MacAulay, MP at Lawrence.MacAulay@parl.gc.ca.



Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA)

The County of Stettler is proud to have many successes when it comes to lobbying the Provincial Government. Our Councillors are willing and always ready to have hard conversations and advocate for our region.

One of the more common avenues we engage with for advocating is through the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA). The provincial conferences, which happen twice a year, offer opportunities for the County of Stettler to share concerns with a wider audience.

Our representatives meet with Ministers and their staff to discuss current issues affecting the County, but also are able to network with other rural municipalities. The RMA offers opportunities for member municipalities to submit their concerns as formal resolutions. These resolutions are submitted at regional events and must have the support of other municipalities in order to be voted on at the semi-annual conference.

Most recently, last fall, the County of Stettler submitted a resolution lobbying to shorten the waiting-period of gravel pit reclamation applications. Councillors are also given an opportunity to present questions, concerns and issues to our Ministers in an open-mic setting.





Stettler FCSS In Your Community



Some examples of what we can assist with:

- Federal and provincial forms and information
- Community Navigation and Outreach
- Community Volunteer Income Tax Program
- Life Coaching
- Financial Literacy
- Family and Individual Counselling
- Public Access Computer
- Trauma Grief and Loss Supports



We would like to visit the county communities (Botha, Erskine, Byemoor, Red Willow, Endiang) on a regular basis to help with questions etc. These meetings will be by appointment starting end of September 2023. Want to visit with us? Call the number below.

**Please call Stettler FCSS at 403-742-2337
for more info.**



AUTUMN AT STETTLER PUBLIC LIBRARY

Spooky tales, creative painting.

From Autumn into Winter: Your Library's Seasonal Highlights

As the leaves turn golden and the air becomes crisp, the Stettler Public Library is gearing up for a season filled with exciting events and activities for all ages. From spooky tales to creative painting, we have something for everyone as we transition from autumn into winter. Our regular programming for children ages 6 and up has returned with Something Cool After School back on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 4 p.m. and Teen Scene on Wednesdays at 4:30 p.m.

Gaming is back with Shaunzy hosting the Super Smash Brothers tournament every 1st and 3rd Saturday. If role-playing games are more your speed, we have you covered. Join Jasper every 2nd and 4th Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. for Dungeons and Dragons, new players are welcome! If you prefer to join us from home, we've got you covered with Stettler v. Rocky online gaming at 8 p.m. Meet up on Discord and duke it out with others from the Stettler area and Rocky Mountain House. Most nights you will need to have access to Nintendo Online to play. Call 403-742-2292 for the scoop.

We have a number of events coming up this fall with activities in store for all ages over the next few months:

Spooktacular Book Sale

Starts October 16 through 21 at 4 p.m.

Our annual Spooktacular Book Sale is back! Dive into a treasure trove of gently used books, perfect for cozy autumn reading. Whether you're into spine-tingling mysteries, heartwarming romances, or thrilling adventures, you're sure to find something that suits your taste. Don't miss out on this opportunity to stock

up on great reads for the colder months ahead.

Monster Bash Halloween Party

October 28, 1 p.m.

Calling all ghouls and ghosts aged 6 and above! Join us for the Monster Bash Halloween Party, one of our favourite events filled with games, crafts, and eerie fun. Come dressed in your favourite costume and get ready for an afternoon of frighteningly good times.

Old Dinosaurs, New Science

Saturday, November 4, 1 p.m.

Discover the fascinating world of paleontology with Tim Jeffries in "Old Dinosaurs, New Science." Explore the latest discoveries and advancements in dinosaur research in this engaging session that's perfect for curious minds of all ages.

Paint Night Fundraiser: Northern Lights

Date: Friday, November 17, 6:30 p.m.

Unleash your inner artist at our Paint Night Fundraiser for ages 18 and up. Enjoy a creative evening of painting the mesmerizing beauty of the Northern Lights while savouring delicious refreshments. No prior painting experience is necessary, and all materials will be provided. It's the perfect way to unwind and support your local library.

Wine Survivor

Tickets on sale throughout November.

Help us provide enriching programs for children by participating in our Wine Survivor fundraiser. To enter, purchase a \$20 ticket and contribute a bottle of wine valued at \$15 or more. There will be multiple elimination draws starting December 4 and leading up to the final elimination drawn on December 9. If your ticket is drawn you have the option to buy back in one



time for a \$20 immunity fee, or purchase immunity in advance! Six lucky winners will have the chance to take home between 10% and 30% of the wine, or up to 60 bottles. It's a fantastic opportunity to win big while supporting a great cause.

Special Programming during the Holiday break: December 27 through January 5. We will have something fun for the kids all throughout the holiday

season. Check for activities in December and bring the children to the library for some holiday fun.

There is so much happening at the Stettler Public Library. To find out what is going on check out our website at <https://spl.prl.ab.ca>, follow us on Facebook, or email spl@prl.ab.ca and ask to be signed up for our monthly newsletter.

Submitted by Stettler Public Library



10TH ANNIVERSARY

**STETTLER
PHEASANT FESTIVAL**

EST. 2014

2023 STETTLER PHEASANT FESTIVAL BANQUET - SATURDAY OCTOBER 14TH

TICKETS AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE ON OUR WEBSITE \$40 ea

5:30PM AT THE STETTLER COMMUNITY HALL

WWW.STETTLERPHEASANTFESTIVAL.COM

SHOTGUN DEMO DAY IS BACK SATURDAY 9AM-4PM

AT THE STETTLER TRAP CLUB

2023 HUNTS HAVE SOLD OUT!

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



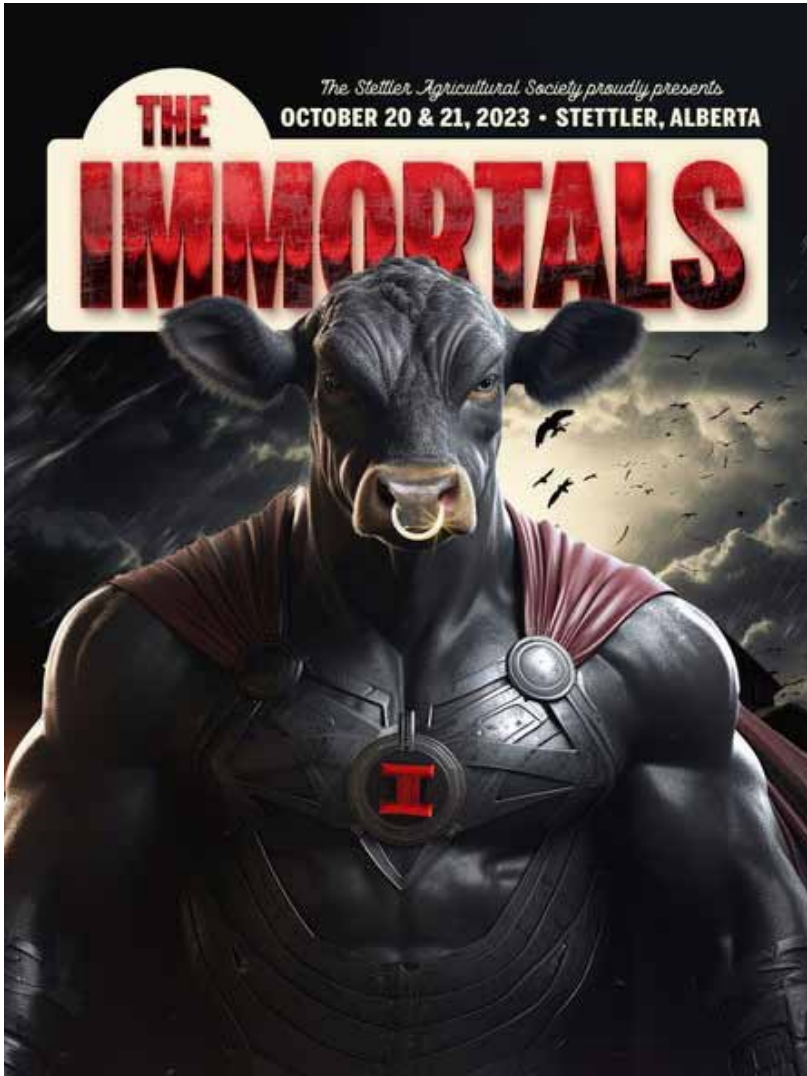
If you would like to be a part of our event as a Sponsor or Volunteer contact us at stettlerpheasantfestival@gmail.com

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 Immortals' October 20 & 21, 2023
One-of-a-kind purebred cattle show and trade show event.

Friday: Junior Heifer Show, Open Heifer Show to follow
Appies and Drinks - Dinner served at 6 PM

Saturday: 1:00 Bull Show; Champion Heifer Class and
Champion Bull Class to follow



Stettler Heartland Quilt Guild presents:

QUILT SHOW

Saturday, October 14

10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

at 'The Hub'

Stettler Recreation Centre

- Show and Tell
- Door Prize
- Viewer's Choice
- Refreshments

Non-member quilts are welcome!

Information: 780-974-5632

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Community Investment Program



Our next deadline for applications, for events happening in the first half of 2024 is December 31, 2023.

- Applicants can only submit one application annually
- Must benefit the community
- Provide community involvement and support
- Have long term viability
- Program or event must be open to the public
- County of Stettler will be recognized as a source of funding

Application forms can be found on the County of Stettler website www.stettlercounty.ca.

If you have any questions, please contact Lorraine Hankins at 403-742-4441, ext. 109, at any time.

Enjoy a wonderful Fall Supper - in a community near you!

Big Valley Community Fall Supper

Sunday, October 15

4:30 PM - 7:00 PM

\$15/plate

6-12 years \$10

6 and under free.

Donalda Fall Supper

Saturday, October 28

5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Donalda Community Hall

\$25/plate

12 and under \$10/plate



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