



Stettler County

CONNECTION

SUMMER 2024

Life is BETTER IN THE country

FLASHING GREEN LIGHTS

MEAN EMERGENCY RESPONSE

PAGE 8



TAX NOTICES

County of Stettler 2024 Property Assessment/Tax Notices

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 Administration Building during regular hours of business.

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

An assessed person wishing to make a complaint must do so in accordance to the Municipal Government Act. The complaint must be in writing and submitted at County Administration Building up to August 12, 2024 at 4:30 p.m. accompanied with a

fee of \$50.00 (Residential and Farmland) or \$100.00 (Non-Residential). Complaint forms are available on our website www.stettlercounty.ca.

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

Tax Payments are due by Thursday, October 31, 2024 and can be made by Cash, Cheque, Interac, Online or at most Financial Institutions. For more information please contact our office.

Dated this 13th day of June, 2024.

Yvette Cassidy, Chief Administrative Officer



ON THE COVER

Photo submitted by
by Alicia Scheerschmidt

CONTENTS

- 3 REEVE'S RAMBLINGS**
Doctor recruitment.
- 5 2024 PHOTO CONTEST**
Here's to 70 years.
- 6 PUBLIC INPUT ENCOURAGED**
MDP/LUB reviews.
- 8 FLASHING GREEN LIGHTS**
Emergency responders.
- 9 RESCUE WATERCRAFT**
Considerations and research.
- 10 WEED WATCH**
Oxeye Daisy.
- 11 YOUTH RANGE DAY**
You're invited.
- 13 PREPARE FOR THE UNEXPECTED**
Farm and Business Plan templates.
- 14 ADVOCACY**
Doctor recruitment.
- 15 BYLAW AND POLICY UPDATE**
Conducting a full review.
- 16 COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD**
Celebration at Rochon Sands.
- 20 MITIGATING DROUGHT**
Explore all avenues.
- 22 YOUR ADDRESS MATTERS**
Help your emergency responders.
- 24 WATER AND WASTEWATER**
Supporting our needs.



2024 COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS CELEBRATED IN ROCHON SANDS



RESCUE WATERCRAFT



BE PREPARED FOR THE UNEXPECTED.



INTRO

“When one neighbour helps another, we strengthen our communities.” Jennifer Pahlka

Spring is upon us and summer is around the corner, and we are full steam ahead with outdoor projects at the County of Stettler. We were thrilled to tidy up the hamlet of Botha in May, in time for the Botha Homecoming, and all the friends, neighbours and visitors who made their way back to catch up with each other in this beautiful community.

Next we will watch as Red Willow welcomes home their valued community members, friends and neighbours for Red Willow’s 50th Anniversary on Saturday, June 22.

The County of Stettler loves a good gathering. We’ll be visiting the Summer Village of Rochon Sands soon to celebrate the opening of the Rochon Sands Bucket Fill Station - everyone is welcome to join Shirley McClellan Regional Water Services Commission to celebrate bringing clean, safe potable water to our lake neighbours. Watch our website for event details coming soon.

In July the County will be coming to where you are, which we hope is the Big Valley Bustout Rodeo on July 19 and 20. Then we’ll join the Stettler Ag Society June 30 - August 3 for the resurrection of the Stettler County Fair! There will be pancakes, rodeo action, heavy horses, markets, customer appreciation and much more! Join us for these exciting ‘back to our rural roots’ events.

On August 17 we will celebrate ‘Open Farm Days’ at the Stettler Ag Society while they host more Stettler County Fair fun with some fine, fine vegetables, flowers and more being shown by amazing growers in our communities. Come see what wins a ribbon, and set your sites on joining in the fun, and winning bragging rights next year. We will also partner up with our friends at the Stettler Town and Country Museum/P&H Elevator the same weekend, as Council hosts the Heritage Days Pancake Breakfast in celebration of Heritage Days.

While we are busy having fun at these summertime events, we look forward to engaging with you to talk about our County budget, your priorities, and answer all your questions and concerns. Join us while we make the most of the next few months and so many opportunities to gather with our friends, neighbours and community.

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

© 2024. All rights reserved. Any reproduction of the contents without written authorization from the publisher is strictly prohibited. The publisher cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions found within this newsmagazine, or for loss of, or damage to, unsolicited material submitted by readers.

Availability: Current Issues of County Connection can be obtained from the County of Stettler Administration Building while supplies last.

Subscription: County Connection is delivered free of charge to taxpayers, with exception to those who do not live in the Province of Alberta or have unsubscribed from our mailing list. If you wish to receive future copies, please make the request to the Managing Editor at nthorsteinsson@stettlercounty.ca. You may also view the current and back issues of the County Connection on our website at stettlercounty.ca.

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 May 23 is 3° C with a forecasted high of 14° C. We made it through another winter and some livestock producers reported dugouts, sloughs and dams filled with the small run off and others had very little. Hopefully the early spring rains helped, with some areas reporting 5-6 inches and grain farmers have been working and seeding the land between showers with some regions having the majority of acres seeded. With well timed rains and Alberta sunshine hopefully this year is not a repeat of last years pasture and hay production. Early May reports showed Southern Alberta reservoirs are still much lower than average so water rations from these may be in place this year to ensure critical use supplies are met. We as the County of Stettler, Rural Municipalities of Alberta and Alberta Agricultural Service Boards have been in discussions with Government of Alberta departments and these shortages will be shared between all users including our urban partners. There have been several grass fires this spring so please ensure all fire restrictions are followed and that fires are not only watched but properly extinguished to prevent devastating losses.

As Council we have to look at where money and resources are committed to ensure our County excels into the next century. The obvious is our vast road and bridge network. This involves ongoing major maintenance and replacement projects to keep residents, agriculture and industry moving within our County. Graveling programs, brush control, spraying and mowing, bridge replacements and road restructuring

projects are considered as grants and budgets allow.

The County has had projects installing transmission and distribution water lines to most of our hamlets. In cooperation with the Shirley McClellan Regional Water Services Commission we have water to the Villages of Big Valley and Donalda, and to the Summer Villages of White Sands and Rochon Sands. If you were lucky to be in close proximity to those lines, and were connected, they had initially been advertised for connection to potable drinking water. However, as times have progressed, truck loading facilities have been installed and this water has transitioned to agricultural use also with truck fills utilized for crop spraying. Over the past few years an increase in usage for watering livestock has been noted as conventional livestock watering methods dried up. Also, tie-ins to this valuable resource have been made for producers to purchase water to supply to their livestock as drought conditions worsened.

Council is now looking at how we best serve our residents to get this valuable resource to those who desperately need it. We have completed 'water needs' surveys over the years with varied responses. We recently reviewed five water extension projects for financial merit and feasibility and realize these are through most parts of our County. The demand for household and agricultural water is real. If you are approached as being in one of these possible waterline extension areas, and asked if would take the water if available, please give a 'yes' or 'no' decision. We need firm numbers to move these projects forward to bring this valuable service to your neighbors and friends. All

REEVE'S RAMBLINGS



Reeve Clarke and Mayor Nolls proclaim June 1-30, National Indigenous History Month, and June 21, National Indigenous Peoples Day with representatives of the Friendship Circle - Stettler and area.

projects that are completed have individuals wanting to tie-in as lines are being ran. These are accommodated typically but are not part of the planned job and affect schedules and supplies. We are trying to strategize this project to get the most, and the most cost effective highly utilized service to our residents.

Another committee we have been working with is doctor attraction and retention. We are at a crucial point now attracting General Practitioners and Anesthesiologists to our community to ensure we continue to have proper and timely health care for our residents. This is very important to your County Council and we have been active in providing financial incentives of \$20,000.00 with a commitment to a 5 year term, to new doctors, to ease the burden in moving and setting up a new practice. These incentives are also greatly supported by the Stettler Health Foundation in the form of a 2 year \$50,000.00 interest-free loan. Stettler Hospital is noted as having state-of-the-art labour and delivery suites, and are extremely well equipped thanks to AHS and our Health Foundation, but with limited Anesthesiologists our C-section ability has seen many diversions over the past year.

If our young families and many from our eastern municipalities are to continue to use these services we need to ensure they are adequately staffed. These challenges have been before the committee in the past but doctor staffing and overall staffing has affected our clinic services wait times and also our hospital activities and accepted capacities. This affect the young to our much more senior residents with bed shortages and diversions to other facilities.

County and Town councillors have attended the AHS workshops to provide our input into the revamped AHS, and we have taken every opportunity available to converse with MLA's, the health ministers, department staff and the premier on this critical service.

County Council and staff will be meeting with our Town of Stettler counterparts with a consultant to discuss more options for our community. Working together as a community we will resolve this as shown in many past challenges. Most municipalities and communities are challenged in staffing of doctors. We need to appreciate our larger urban hospitals, doctors and staff in providing us critical care in our times of need, but need to work hard as a community and provide competitive incentives to attract more doctors that would love to call our community 'home', as many of our fine past and present doctors do.

Please drive safely on our very busy roads. Be patient when following heavy equipment, farm equipment, graders or with construction as our roads are maintained, graveled or shaped. 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



Reeve Clarke congratulating Paige Jones - our Grand Prize Photo Contest winner in 2023!

2024 County of Stettler Photo Contest

Will you be our next Grand Prize Winner?

Enter our photo contest between now and September 23, 2024 for your chance to win an iPad, and be featured in our 2025 70th Anniversary Edition of the County Calendar!



COUNTY OF STETTLER ANNUAL PHOTO CONTEST

**HERE'S TO
70 YEARS**



***IN 2025**

**CONTEST CLOSSES AT 11:59 PM ON
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2024**

- 1. PHOTOS MUST BE TAKEN IN THE COUNTY OF STETTLER**
- 2. MAXIMUM OF FIVE PHOTOS PER ENTRANT**
- 3. AMATEUR PHOTOGRAPHERS ONLY**
- 4. ALL ENTRANTS MUST SIGN THE REQUIRED WAIVER TO SUBMIT THEIR ENTRY**

THE GRAND PRIZE: AN IPAD

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, OR TO ENTER,
VISIT STETTLERCOUNTY.CA/CONTEST OR
SCAN THIS QR CODE**





MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN & LAND USE BYLAW REVIEW

Public Input Encouraged

The County of Stettler will be commencing a review of the Municipal Development Plan and Land Use Bylaw in Spring/Summer 2024. The review is meant to update these two documents to reflect the aspirations of the County community, anticipate trends in development, and guide land use planning decisions to help create the community's desired future.

The process will have several phases and opportunities for direct participation by County residents and ratepayers. In general, the major phases of the review will involve:

- Collecting background information on topics usually covered by Municipal Development Plans and Land Use Bylaws and seeking input on the current documents
- Gathering input on the future vision for the County and suggestions on approaches for various topics
- Creating draft materials for review and discussion with the community
- Writing full replacement documents and making these available for public review and discussion
- Public hearing hosted by County Council to consider adoption of the updated documents

The review process will take many months and stretch into 2025. Watch for a dedicated area on the County website that will provide more details in the coming weeks.

Our public participation opportunities are expected to include:

- Posting materials to the County website for review and comment
- Holding workshops and open houses
- Hosting virtual meetings
- A public hearing hosted by Council

Your participation and input in the review process is welcome and will be greatly appreciated.

For more information about the Municipal Development Plan and Land Use Bylaw Review please contact Craig Teal, RPP MCIP, Director of Planning & Development at 403-742-4441 or cteal@stettlercounty.ca.

What is a Municipal Development Plan?

The Municipal Development Plan (MDP) is one of the documents that the County is required to create to carry out land use planning responsibilities under the Municipal Government Act. It is a statutory plan, meaning that it is adopted through a Council bylaw.

The MDP guides and directs future physical growth and development. It seeks to ensure that growth is orderly, economical and beneficial while balancing

PARTICIPATE!

Your participation and input in our review process is welcome and appreciated.

For more information about our Municipal Development Plan and Land Use Bylaw Review contact 403-742-4441 or email ctéal@stettlercounty.ca.

the environmental, social and economic needs and desires of the community. It is a collection of policies that act as an overall “blueprint” for future land use and physical changes in the County of Stettler. It provides a long-term vision of the type of community that County residents and ratepayers desire. Policies on a variety of topics provide direction on how to reach the vision.

Topics covered in the MDP include:

- Use and development of agricultural lands
- Preservation of significant environmental features and impacts on the environment
- Protecting special places and providing recreation opportunities
- Land uses and activities (residential, commercial, industrial, recreational) that may be considered in selected areas or may be approved based on a set of criteria
- Expectations relating to rural residential development
- Economic development and the role of various economic sectors
- Infrastructure and transportation connections such as roads, railways, airports, water and wastewater systems, storm water management, modern telecommunications
- Services to support the community such as health care, education, emergency response, and protective services, and
- Relations with other communities, regions and the Province with respect to land use planning matters.

The policies of the MDP are used by Council in assessing more detailed plans, such as area structure plans and outline plans, and Land Use Bylaw re-designations to allow development to proceed. The policies of the MDP are also used to make decisions on subdivision applications.

What is a Land Use Bylaw?

Where the MDP is the “blueprint” for what we want the community to look like in the future, the Land Use Bylaw (LUB) is the primary toolbox for implementing the MDP.

The County’s Land Use Bylaw regulates and controls the use and development of land and buildings. It does this by:

- Establishing land use districts (zones) that are assigned to various properties
- Identifying a range of allowable uses for each district (e.g. agricultural operations are the main use in the Agricultural District)
- Setting standards for common items such as yards, setbacks, building heights, safe distances for new driveways
- Setting standards for the size of new parcels being subdivided such as parcel area and parcel width along a roadway, and
- Creating a system for requiring and deciding on development permits.



FLASHING GREEN LIGHTS MEAN EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Flashing Green Lights signal that a volunteer firefighter is responding to our Fire Station.

When the alarm goes off, on-call volunteer firefighters from all over our Town and County quickly drop what they are doing to respond to what may very well be someone's worst day ever.

Volunteer firefighters may be responding from home, from work or elsewhere, but they must respond to the fire hall before attending to a call. Our fire service uses a flashing green light on personal vehicles of our volunteer firefighters, to signify that a volunteer firefighter is traveling to the firehall in response to an emergency call.

We request that anyone sharing the road please pull over if it is considered safe to do so, to let the volunteer firefighters by, in an effort to shorten response times. Yielding is courtesy, and is very much appreciated, but it is important to note drivers

are not required to forfeit their right-of-way in response to our green lights, in alignment with the Alberta Traffic Safety Act. Green lights do not provide volunteer firefighters with special privileges on the roadway, and all rules of the road must be obeyed.

Green lights are placed on the dashboard or in the windshield of the volunteer's personal vehicle for consistent identification.

When yielding the right-of-way to a volunteer firefighter, please be sure to re-enter the roadway with caution as there may be additional traffic or firefighter vehicles following. The Stettler Regional Fire Department thanks everyone for their cooperation in providing expedited emergency response for our communities.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Stettler Regional Fire Department at 403-742-2083.



RESCUE WATERCRAFT

The County of Stettler has received a request from the Stettler Volunteer Firefighters Association and the Stettler Volunteer Fire Department notifying of their intent to donate 2 Sea Doo watercraft units and a trailer to the Stettler Regional Fire Department.

County Council formally declined acceptance of this donation at their May Council meeting. They have requested research be conducted and provided back to them on the costs associated with the operation, maintenance, storage, capital replacement and equipment, training requirements and responsibilities due to the water rescue component of owning such assets.

Once a business plan outlining all costs, risks and responsibilities has been provided to the County, Council will be able to thoughtfully reconsider this request, as well as properly investigate fair and equitable financial commitments from our municipal partners, including our Summer Villages.

We see the benefit of Stettler Regional Fire Department providing water rescue support to Buffalo Lake. We also understand it is in our community's and volunteers' best interests that we fully understand and prepare for the ongoing fiscal responsibilities, as well as the risk management that will go along with accepting this capital asset and responsibility.

In the meantime, we will continue to rely on our mutual aid partnerships and agreements for this important service for our community. We thank the community for their ongoing understanding as due diligence is completed.

WEED WATCH

Oxeye Daisy (Leucanthemum vulgare) **Weed Control Act: NOXIOUS**

Oxeye Daisy is a noxious weed found in the County of Stettler.

Despite its pretty looks, this weed is a **serious** invader. Many infestations of this weed come from plantings of the seemingly harmless Shasta Daisy.



The Shasta Daisy is a very close relative and look-a-like to Oxeye Daisy.

This is because Shasta Daisy is a sterile hybrid between Oxeye Daisy, English Field Daisy, and Portuguese Field Daisy. However, over time this hybrid breaks down resulting in the re-emergence

of Oxeye Daisy, a noxious weed. The key way to distinguish between Shasta Daisy and Oxeye Daisy is to look at the growth habit, if your daisy plants are spreading into your lawn or out of their nice clump then the noxious weed as re-emerged and control is needed.

Scentless Chamomile also has a similar looking flower to Oxeye Daisy but has no relation. The leaves of Scentless Chamomile look dramatically different having finer dill-like leaves Oxeye Daisy can be controlled through handpicking, cultivation, mowing, or herbicidal control.

To report sightings of noxious and prohibited noxious weeds call the County at 403 742-4441. Please have a legal land location and area description ready when you call.

If you are looking to add pretty daisy-like flowers to your garden please grow White Swan Coneflower, Tufted Fleabane, or Alpine Aster instead.

2024 BURSARY RECIPIENT

Congratulations go out to Colby Norman, selected as our 2024 Agricultural Services Board Bursary recipient!

Colby will be studying Crop Technology at Lakeland College beginning this fall and we wish him every success. Colby has a background in 4-H and so many experiences already with livestock management, crop production and farm operations. We were delighted to meet Colby and are left feeling the future of agriculture is in good hands as our youth pursue education in the agriculture field.

Colby is pictured here accepting his award from Manager of Ag Services Quinton Beaumont, Vice-Chair of Agricultural Services Paul McKay, and Assistant Agricultural Fieldman Farrah Fischer.





CENTRAL ALBERTA YOUTH RANGE DAY

Saturday, July 13, 2024

Buffalo Lake Moraine Conservation Site

An interactive day to engage and educate youth ages 13-18 on topics such as rangeland management, riparian health, aquatic invertebrates, and plant identification. Parents are welcome. Space is limited.

Tickets are \$20.00 each



To register, call the County of Stettler at (403)742-4441, or by email at info@stettlercounty.ca. Registration deadline is June 28, 2024.



2024 STETTTLER PHEASANT FESTIVAL
BANQUET - SATURDAY OCTOBER 19TH
5:30PM AT THE STETTTLER COMMUNITY HALL
BANQUET TICKETS AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE ON OUR WEBSITE
WWW.STETTTLERPHEASANTFESTIVAL.COM
SHOTGUN DEMO DAY IS BACK SATURDAY OCT 20TH
9AM-4PM AT THE STETTTLER TRAP CLUB
2024 HUNTS HAVE SOLD OUT!
WATCH OUR WEBSITE OR FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK
FOR 2025 HUNTS TO GO ON SALE



OCTOBER 18 19 & 20TH 2024

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.

BE PREPARED FOR THE UNEXPECTED

Prepare your farm, family, business and home for emergencies.

The County of Stettler urges all of our residents to take time to prepare for the unexpected.

Our region often faces grass fires, equipment fires, and bale fires due to natural hazards or unfortunate events. We're asking residents to take steps to prepare, and help create a more resilient community.



Clint Sime, Director of Emergency Management for the Stettler Regional Emergency Management Agency (SREMA) emphasizes the importance of knowing the risks to better prevent and mitigate them. To assist, SREMA, along with our Agricultural Services Department, has created a Farm Emergency Plan template to help local producers prepare their farms for emergencies. This includes identifying risks and preparing livestock protection.

The comprehensive guide can be found at www.StettlerCounty.ca/farmplan.

"When we know the risks, we're better prepared to take action to prevent and mitigate those risks," said Clint Sime, Director of Emergency Management.

"We spend a lot of time with our community partners, identifying all of the risks in their communities, which in turn helps them better prepare for those risks. We're asking our rural

residents, farms and ranches to do the same," he added.

Farrah Fischer, Assistant Agricultural Fieldman highlights the importance of having a fire safety plan tailored to your farm to minimize losses in case of a fire. "Some key steps everyone can take include installing and maintaining portable fire extinguishers, providing clear directions to your property for first responders, and preparing a farm emergency plan," she adds.

The SREMA supports emergency response in the Town of Stettler and surrounding areas, including Stettler County, Village of Donaldia, Village of Big Valley, and the Summer Villages of White Sands and Rochon Sands.



Businesses are also encouraged to get better prepared by reviewing and completing the Business Continuity template also available on our website at www.StettlerCounty.ca/businessplan.

For more information or assistance, please contact Clint Sime, Director of Emergency Management, at 403-742-4441 or email csime@stettlercounty.ca.

ADVOCACY

Doctor Recruitment

At our regular Council meeting in May, Council held important discussion on what we have been doing, and what other areas are doing to attract new medical professionals to our community.

The County of Stettler has been providing a monetary recruitment incentive to bring doctors to our community since 2007, so far investing close to \$300,000.

We have experienced some success with our recruiting incentive, providing incentives to doctors who commit to staying five years or more, bringing 13 doctors to our community over that time period. With the recent departure of several doctors from our community, we find our community experiencing a sudden and unexpected shortage.

We are not alone.

Communities all over our province are, and have found themselves in the same predicament, and we now find ourselves competing with other urban and rural municipalities to attract doctors to our area. The incentives the County has been offering and providing to attract doctors to our region may simply not be competitive enough for this very competitive market we now find ourselves in.

At the spring Rural Municipalities of Alberta conference this was a hot topic. Discussions with neighbouring and other rural municipalities confirmed we are all competing to bring the same limited number of doctors to our region.

The County of Stettler and the Town of Stettler planned a joint meeting at the end of April to discuss this regional problem and hear from a rural-based health care professional and consultant, well-versed in the challenges smaller communities face in attracting medical professionals. Our joint meeting unfortunately had to be postponed but we are set up again to meet on this important topic mid-June.



Doctors, and providing doctors in Alberta is the responsibility of the Alberta Government. Municipalities are aware we have to play a part, and make our communities stand out and attractive, and an easy choice.

Obstacles we and other communities are looking at include: availability of rental housing/affordable housing for new graduates/physicians; affordable clinic space; competitive funding/incentives; latest/ attractive health care technology and tools, to mention just a few.

We will be digging deeper into what is working for other communities, and what will work better for ours. It is a priority for County Council and we continue to lobby and liaise with Alberta Government ministers and staff about how we can solve this problem in our community, and how they can assist us, and the vital need to attract more doctors to Alberta.

Reeve Clarke for the County of Stettler adds, "The last thing we want is for our citizens to have to leave our community to seek medical care. Once they leave, they will take their shopping and their other business outside of our community as well. We are working together with community groups on this important issue. We have to start thinking outside the box and we will seek input and support wherever we can. Our hospital is a community hospital and we will be looking to our community as we continue our efforts to recruit doctors to this region."

BYLAWS AND POLICY UPDATE



County of Stettler Policy Review

In 2024, the County of Stettler began a full review for all of our legislative policies. This review dedicates Council and Administration's attention to amend and modernize our policies.

The policies are first presented to Council during a Committee of the Whole meeting, and following Council review and feedback a draft is made available online for citizen feedback for thirty-plus days.

A final draft is brought back to a regular council meeting for consideration of official amendment.

This review is scheduled to take place throughout 2024 and 2025. So far, policies which have been reviewed include: AF 6.17 – Procurement, Disposition and Tendering; PW 2.04 – County Equipment Usage – Villages, Summer Villages and School Divisions; and PW 2.1 – Roadside Brushing.

Watch our website as we continue this process and please provide your feedback on these policies as we continue our thorough review process.

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



Bylaw 1721-24: 2024 Tax Rate Bylaw

On May 8, 2024 County Council approved the 2024 Tax Rate Bylaw.

This Bylaw included municipal tax increases (5% for Farmland, 3% for Residential, 3% for Non-Residential, Machinery and Equipment).

Following the approval of this Bylaw, Council also approved the 2024 Revised Budget. This information along with the revised budget, is available on our website at www.StettlerCounty.ca.



Bylaw 1719-24: Amendment to the Land Use Bylaw (DCD)

At our March Council Meeting, Bylaw 1719-24: Amendment to the Land Use Bylaw was given third reading.

This Bylaw amended Bylaw 1443-10: Land Use Bylaw, in regards to the sand, gravel and surface mineral extraction and processing use.

Changes included; updating definitions to distinguish between extraction and processing, updating general regulations for applications, and the creation of Direct Control District (DCD) for extraction or processing for operation periods of 5 years or longer.



County Council joined Minister of Finance and President of Treasury Nate Horner at the Alberta Legislature before meeting about important regional concerns this spring.

2024 Community Service Awards



ATCO, Arts Culture and Heritage Award presented to Susan Queseth. Presented by Tracy Volker of ATCO and Kim Weaver of Nevis Community Hall.



Botha Community Centre Youth Service Award – Rylie Nims. Presented by Buck McMillan.



Red Willow Agriculture Society Community Service Award – Brad and Penny Dahl. Presented by Heather Fletcher and Sherry Marshall of TD Bank.

Congratulations to all of the nominees and award winners at the 2024 County of Stettler Community Service Awards.

Thank you to Rochon Sands Hall Society and volunteers who beautifully hosted the 2024 Community Services Awards on March 14. As we head towards 2025, we look forward to celebrating the 47th annual County of Stettler Community Service Awards, as we also recognize and celebrate the County of Stettler's 70th Anniversary! Stettler will be our hosts in 2025.



Stettler Dodge Community Service Award – Beth and Roy Fulton, along with son Wyatt Fulton. Presented by Kelly Hicks of Stettler Dodge and Ray Kneeland of the Donalda Ag Society.



Sullivan Lake Agricultural Society Community Service Award - Nolan Groundwater. Presented by John Schofer of Sullivan Lake West Ag Society.



Donalda Agricultural Society Community Service Award - Teresa Donald, accepted by Larry Donald. Presented by Beth Fulton of Donalda Ag Society and Dwayne Grover of Vision Credit Union.



Stettler and District Agricultural Society Community Service Award - Perry Christian. Presented by Christine Ross of the SAS along with Chris Hunter and Brandi Page of Scotiabank.

2024 Community Service Awards continued...



Rochon Sands Hall and Recreation Community Service Award – Harriette Hudson. Presented by Carrie Resch and Kelly Lang of Rochon Sands Hall & Rec Society and Charles Firth of Royal Bank of Canada.



Rochon Sands Hall and Recreation Community Service Award- Noel Nixon and family
Presented by Carrie Resch of Rochon Sands Hall & Rec Society and Charles Firth of Royal Bank of Canada.



Big Valley Agricultural Society Community Service Award – Jack and Barb Skocdopole. Presented by Ariane Jensen.



Big Valley Agricultural Society Youth Community Service Award - Paige and Parker Van Haga. Presented by Andrea Webster, Jamie Comchi represented ATB Financial.



STETTLER AG SOCIETY
★★★★★ PRESENTS ★★★★★

STETTLER COUNTY FAIR & RODEO

TUESDAY JULY 30TH - SATURDAY AUGUST 3RD

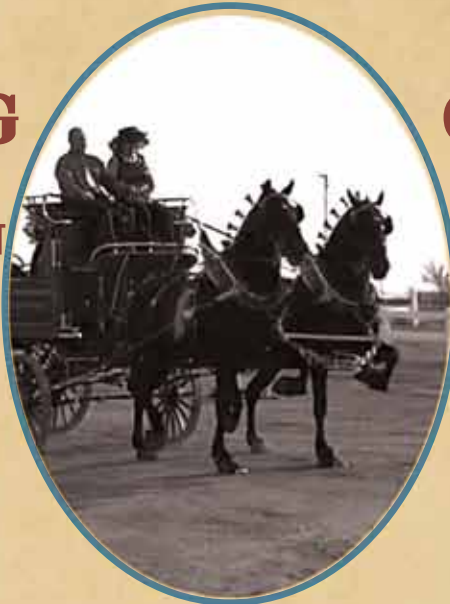
FACE PAINTING

TUESDAY
CUSTOMER APPRECIATION MARKET
4PM - 7PM

WEDNESDAY
MARKET & TRADE SHOW
3PM - 6PM

ZEKE THURSTON
XTREME BRONCS CHALLENGE
GATES OPEN AT 5PM MATCH STARTS AT 7PM

SPECIAL PERFORMANCE BY
JEFF CATTO



THURSDAY
DRAFT HORSE SHOW
HEAVY HORSE PULLS
OPEN ROPING
6PM

BEER GARDENS

FRIDAY
DRAFT HORSE SHOW
HEAVY HORSE PULLS
RODEO
6PM - GATES OPEN AT 5PM
\$10 ADMISSION

SATURDAY
DRAFT HORSE SHOW
POULTRY SHOW
10AM
RODEO
6PM - GATES OPEN AT 5PM
\$10 ADMISSION



★★★★★ WWW.STETTLERAGSOCIETY.COM ★★★★★

4516 52ND STREET, STETTLER, AB | 403-742-6288

MITIGATING DROUGHT IMPACTS

It's vital to explore all avenues to safeguard farming operations. Having diverse and innovative strategies can help you from being left high and dry.

Spring moisture has been a blessing so far in Stettler County, however we still see signs of drought in areas of our County and when summer heats up, we know the picture can always change in a hurry.

Take some time to prepare for anything that might be coming our way.

Preserve what you have.

During droughts, it's crucial to preserve your water sources, focusing on maintaining water quality, especially in aboveground sources like dugouts. Livestock should be kept out of water sources to prevent contamination with feces, urine, and pathogens, which can degrade water quality and quantity. Livestock can also cause bank erosion and sedimentation. To address this consider fencing off water sources and provide alternative watering systems, like offsite waterers. Even simple things like allowing vegetation to grow freely around the dugout, creating a buffer strip, will filter runoff and prevent erosion, reducing the risk of contamination. It is also always key to use proper storage and disposal methods for manure, chemicals, and other pollutants to prevent water source contamination.

Adapting to Drought Conditions:

Flexibility is essential when managing grasslands through drought. Exploring alternative feeds, utilizing annual forages, and considering destocking options are proactive measures to ensure pasture health and productivity. When considering alternative feeds, it is key to consider feed testing to ensure proper nutrition.

Monitoring Feeding Sites for Invasive Species:

During feed shortages, vigilance is key. When importing feed or resorting to seed cleaning

screenings, be watchful for invasive weed species at cattle feeding sites. Since some weed seeds are resistant to digestion, switching cattle to a known feed source before turning them out to pasture reduces the risk of weed transportation in their manure. Utilizing stockpiled or local feeds from trusted sources



reduces risk, minimizing the need for extensive monitoring and management.

Reducing the Long-Term Impact of Drought:

Deciding when to release cattle in the spring demands thoughtful planning. Factors such as understanding carrying capacity, waiting for the three-leaf stage, and aligning grazing strategies with pasture types are crucial. In times of drought, pasture is already under stress so careful management is key for preserving productivity. Even with sound management, plant vigor may not fully recover for five or more years if heavy grazing occurred prior to and during drought.



Cattle Health Problems Associated with Drought:

Being proactive about livestock health is paramount. Common issues during drought include deficiencies in vitamins A and E, nitrate toxicity, copper deficiency, winter feed challenges, and reproductive effects. Additionally with limited browsing options, there is a greater chance for poisonous plants to be grazed. Conduct routine scouting of your pasture for these plants and contact your veterinarian if symptoms of poisoning occur. Regular monitoring and feed and water testing are key to mitigate these risks.

Planning Ahead and Moving Forward:

A drought resilient grazing system begins years before a drought. Ensure the health of your pasture by avoiding stress factors such as overgrazing and periodically revitalizing with fertilizer or reseeding. It's wise to have a two-year supply of feed to mitigate risks associated with fluctuating prices and to have reserves that alleviate pressure on your pasture.

Know how much water your farm requires per year using this handy calculator https://www.agric.gov.ab.ca/app19/calc/livestock/waterreq_dataentry1.jsp

To ensure sufficient water for a farm throughout the year and during peak demand days, start by inventorying all water sources, such as wells and dugouts.

For wells, note details like number, purpose, construction dates, depths, casing sizes, yields, and any issues. If a well produces water too slowly, consider adding a cistern for half to one day's storage to meet peak demands.

For dugouts, record their purpose, age, size, water volume, and any problems. Calculate the required size by multiplying daily water needs by the number of days used annually. In Alberta, dugouts should hold a two to three-year water supply to endure droughts. Account for losses from evaporation, seepage, and ice.

Furthermore, protect your water supply:

- Regularly test the water
- Treat the water if necessary
- Monitor the supply
- Prevent contamination of the water source (including run off and from livestock watering directly from your water source).

Managing drought is a complex challenge, but with foresight and adaptability, producers can mitigate its impact on their operations. By implementing sound on-farm practices and exploring additional strategies, such as insurance and financial tools, producers can enhance resilience and ensure long-term sustainability even in the face of drought.

Questions?

***Want to talk more about this topic?
Contact our Agricultural Services at
403-742-4441 or email us at
asb@stettlercounty.ca.***

YOUR ADDRESS MATTERS

Help Emergency Responders Find you Faster!

Imagine a convoy of firefighters rushing down the highway, turning off onto your road and having to look for the driveway next to the crooked tree and beside the big rock!

A highly visible, fire-resistant address sign can be your best friend during wildfire season and all emergency incidents. Know your blue sign address (preferred) or legal land location, if no blue sign address is available.

Does My Fire Alarm System Alert the Fire Department Automatically?

Fire alarms are a critical part of any fire protection system. When a smoke detector senses a fire, the fire alarm sounds the alert. Manual pull stations in larger buildings also allow building occupants to announce an emergency if they spot flames before the sensors do.

Fire alarms are effective for ensuring everyone evacuates safely. Does a fire alarm system alert the fire department automatically? In most cases 'YES' the fire department is automatically notified.

What do I do if my fire alarm is triggered by accident?

If your home fire alarm system has been triggered by accident, take the necessary steps to cancel the false

alarm by calling and notifying your alarm monitoring company of the false activation. Please make sure that the alarm monitoring company will also update/notify the fire department of the cancellation.

If your fire alarm system has been activated, but you're not sure why:

- Do not reset the fire alarm system.
- Evacuate the building as per the Fire Safety Plan.
- Phone 9-1-1. Stettler Regional Fire will search for the cause of the activation and ensure the building is safe prior to occupants re-entering the building. The building owner or responsible party will be advised of what must be done in order to rectify the situation.

Common causes of fire alarms:

- cooking
- faulty alarm panel/detector
- smoke detector activated by dust
- technician working on the system
- steam (shower)
- homeowner testing the alarm; fire drills involving activation of the fire alarm system where alarm monitoring company has not been notified





QUESTIONS? CONTACT YOUR COUNCIL.

Do you have questions or concerns about the County of Stettler?
Reach out to one of your Council members.

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

WATER AND WASTEWATER

Supporting our needs. Assisting when we can.

The County has, for the past few years, provided relief support to a few of our neighbouring villages including Big Valley, Donalda and Veteran, to ensure water quality was monitored and public health was protected when the villages' staff were on holidays or temporarily unavailable.

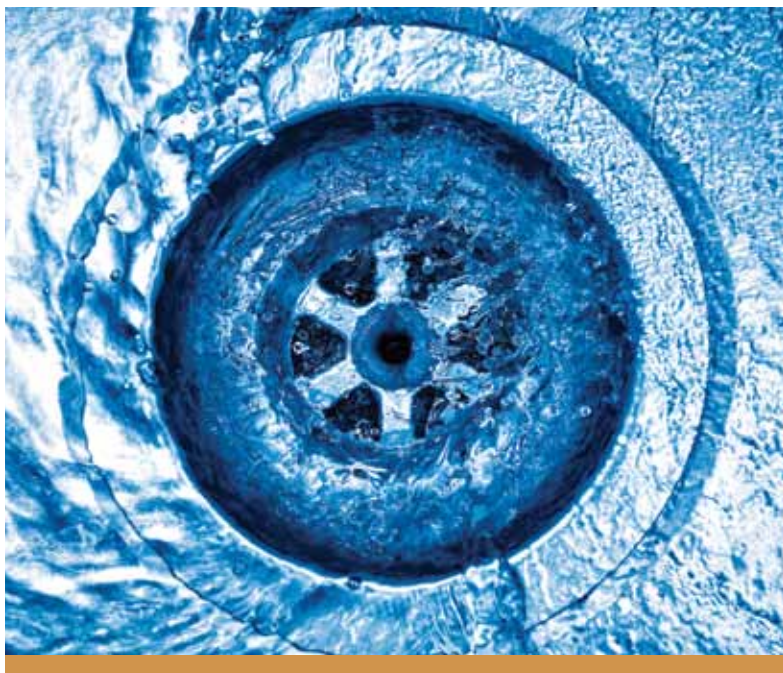
Lately, and all at once, these villages lost the staff they had in place, and the County of Stettler has ended up in the position where we're providing full-time utility services, which unfortunately was never the intent of our agreements.

With the sudden increase in required work, and our own growing priorities including numerous capital waterline expansion projects, we simply no longer have the capacity to provide the appropriate and required level of support to ensure the Code of Practices are met, as required by Alberta Environment and Protected Areas.

When it comes to water and sewer, we cannot risk public health by providing part-time support if the municipality does not have supplemental support, nor can we spread our staff resources so thin we risk our own essential services.

Regretfully, we ended our Utility Monitoring Agreements with Veteran, Donalda and Big Valley due to these circumstances.

The County of Stettler operates County of Stettler water and wastewater lines as well as the vast Shirley McClellan Regional Water Services Commission waterlines, which run from the County of Stettler to the Saskatchewan border.





SUSTAINABLE CANADIAN AGRICULTURAL PARTNERSHIP

The Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (S-CAP) is a program designed to promote sustainable agricultural practices in Alberta.

It covers various funding areas, including Efficient Grain Handling, Emerging Opportunities, Farm Technology, On-Farm Value-Added, Resiliency and Public Trust, Resilient Agricultural Landscape, Value-Added, and On-Farm Irrigation System Purchases and Upgrades.

The County of Stettler can assist our producers in obtaining an Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) to qualify for these initiatives.

Get in Touch with Our Agricultural Services Department at 403-742-4441.

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

- We're combining FireSmart, Weeds and Invasive Species Identification (land and water) and Crime Prevention through Environmental Design to bring our lake communities some great information sessions later this season. Watch our website and Facebook page for dates and registration information!
- Coffee with a Cop is ongoing throughout the year, and rotates through the County of Stettler to different communities. Again, please watch our website and Facebook page for event information and dates.

SUMMER DELIGHTS FOR ALL AGES



At Stettler Public Library

Hey there, fellow sun-seekers! As we gear up for the summer sun, get ready for a blast of activities and good times right here at the heart of our community - the Stettler Public Library!

Join us for Canada Day celebrations at the Stettler Town and Country Museum, community organizations are working together to plan lots of great activities for the whole family leading up to the fireworks at dusk.

For adults we will be hosting a Mocktails and Masterpieces Paint Night where you will create a quilt pattern on canvas, \$25/pp ages 18+ and the proceeds go to support library programming. We will have some yummy snacks and a signature mocktail for the evening. Ukulele Club is back, kicking off on Tuesday, June 11 and 25 at 1 pm. Bring a lawn chair we will strum away outdoors if the weather cooperates!

Summer Reading Club is Back!

Calling all adventurers aged 5-18! Dive into the Summer Reading Club designed to spark your imagination, keep those pages turning, and beat that summer slide! This club is open to youth who have attended school in the academic year of 2023/24. Registration opens June 1 for a season packed with awesome activities. There is no cost to join the Summer Reading Club.

We host a number of awesome activities for children and youth throughout the week. We will be back out

at the Rochon Sands Community Hall on Wednesday mornings at 10:30. Meet us out there if you are able. We are looking forward to bringing back some of your favourite family events and challenges kicking off with a BBQ and Big Games event at the West Stettler Park on July 5, and winding up with a bowling party on August 23.

As if the excitement of reading and fun family activities weren't enticing enough, the Summer Reading Club offers the chance to win exciting prizes. For ages 5-8, prizes include an Ezy-roller, Sphero, or an ice machine to keep you cool on those hot summer days! Youth ages 9 and up can vie for prizes like a fabulous LEGO treehouse, Sphero, or scooter!

Families, we have you covered!

Do you have little ones in tow? Our Read and Rhyme sessions are in full swing on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at 10:30 am. If Saturdays are more your speed join us for Tales at 11 on Saturdays at 11 am. There will be stories and fun for the whole family.

Bring the whole gang for our annual celebration of International Teddy Bear Picnic Day at the Memorial Park (next to Wm E Hay Secondary Campus), weather permitting. We will have stories and songs, and games, and snacks for all your little ones as we celebrate all things Teddy Bear with our friends from the Stettler Family Resource Network! If the weather



does not cooperate we will meet indoors at the library.

Film Circuit at the Library

Join us for Film Circuit at the library, where cinematic magic awaits. On June 3, don't miss "Next Goal Wins," a heartwarming tale based on a true story that follows the journey of the American Samoa soccer team as they strive for redemption and glory. On July 8, unravel the mysteries of "Anatomy of a Fall," a gripping drama that delves into the complexities of human relationships and the consequences of secrets kept hidden. In August, prepared to be moved by "One Life," starring Anthony Hopkins, as it explores the beauty of the human experience. The popcorn will be hot and buttery and we will have a small selection of beverages for purchase at the desk.

Wellness at the Library

For those seeking wellness, we have a number of programs that will continue to run all summer long. Minds in Motion, a program for people experiencing cognitive decline and their caregivers will continue on Thursdays at 1 pm. Our caregiver support group will meet on the first Tuesday of each month at

1 pm. If you are worried about leaving your loved one at home alone, bring them along for Afternoon Friends, a program for adults aged 18+ on Tuesdays at 1 pm. Afternoon Friends do crafts, play games, watch matinees, and enjoy hanging out together. If you are experiencing stress due to someone else's drinking our AI Anon group offers support and camaraderie in a nurturing environment and will continue all summer on Tuesday evenings at 6:30 pm.

Stay in the Loop!

Don't miss a beat - follow us on Facebook, check out our website (<https://prl.ab.ca/stettler>), or hop on our monthly email newsletter. Email spl@prl.ab.ca to be added to the list! From upcoming events, to art exhibits, and fun programs, there is always something new to discover! Becoming a member is a breeze, and free, thanks to the support of the County and Town of Stettler. For more information stop by for a tour or call us at 403-742-2292.

Let's make this summer one for the books – literally!

Submitted by Stettler Public Library

Bring your grandparents, kids, grandkids. Come celebrate 50 years of family and memories!

**Red Willow Ag Society
50th Anniversary Event**

- Bouncy Castle
- Dunk Tank
- Cotton Candy
- Chili Cookoff
- Pie Baking Contest
- Pie eating Contest
- Races
- Live Music
- BBQ lunch for purchase
- Market
- And more

On-site camping available. Book your spot, while there is space

Red Willow Ball Diamond
June 22, 2024
10-4



For more information
redwillowagsociety@hotmail.com



Reeve Larry Clarke was honoured to join Town Mayor Sean Nolls at Heart Haven Lodge to proclaim 'Seniors' Week 2024'. We were delighted to be able to participate in the many Seniors' Week activities.

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



Red Willow 50th Anniversary Celebration:

**Saturday, June 22
10 AM - 4 PM**

Bring your kids, grandkids, friends and neighbours and come celebrate 50 years with Red Willow on June 22.

- Bouncy Castle
- Dunk Tank
- Cotton Candy
- Chili Cook off
- Pie Baking Contest
- Pie Eating Contest
- Live Music
- Races
- BBQ Lunch for purchase
- Market

redwillowsociety@hotmail.com

Stettler Cancer Support Group

Meets the first Thursday of Every Month

1:30 PM at Stettler FCSS/7:00 PM at Stettler Board of Trade

Everyone welcome.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Community Investment Program



Our next deadline for applications, for events in the first half of 2025, is December 31, 2024.

- 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.

BIG VALLEY BUSTOUT RODEO
JULY 19 & 20
• 7:00PM DAILY •
ADMISSION \$15/Day

Pre Show @ 6:00pm
Mounted Shooting & Trick Riding

BEER GARDENS both nights

LOCATION Big Valley, AB

Call In/Local Entries
July 4
4:00pm to 6:00pm
403-739-2988

Online Entries
July 1 - July 4
Closes at 6:00pm
chinookrodeo@gmail.com

For More Information Contact
Tom Cassidy 403-743-3488
Amanda Wilman 403-741-8822

Waste Management MAJOR SPONSOR

CHINOOK RODEO ASSOCIATION

Associated To The Memory of Dana Cooper



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