



Stettler County CONNECTION

WINTER 2025

SEVENTY YEARS

OUR ONGOING COMMITMENT TO OUR COMMUNITIES



SEVENTY YEARS OF SERVICE
1955 - 2025

STETTLER COUNTY VOTES

PAGE 14

THE GREAT TWINE ROUND-UP

PAGE 8

PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS

PAGE 20

PM: 41398593



FEBRUARY 1 PENALTY ON UNPAID TAXES

Ratepayers are reminded that an 8 percent (8%) penalty will be added to the total outstanding taxes on February 1, 2025.

Payments can be made by CASH, CHEQUE, TELEBANKING, INTERAC, at most financial institutions and must be made no later than January 31, 2025 – the last working day in January. Mailed in cheques will also need to be post-marked, by the post office, no later than January 31, 2025.

For more information please contact our office at (403) 742-4441.

PAYING ONLINE

Payee Account Information

- **If you are paying your Property Tax all Roll Numbers MUST be paid individually:** Roll

Number (example only with the Payee: County of Stettler No. 6 – Taxes

- If you are paying your Utilities account please use: 12345601 (example only) with the Payee: County of Stettler No. 6 – Utilities
- If you are paying your Accounts Receivable account please use: ABC001 (example only) with the Payee: County of Stettler No. 6 – Accounts Receivable

Each financial institution may have different wording and we are unable to control how they refer to us (Stettler County/County of Stettler/County of Stettler No. 6). If you are unable to find the correct payee in their list, we suggest contacting your financial institution for assistance.



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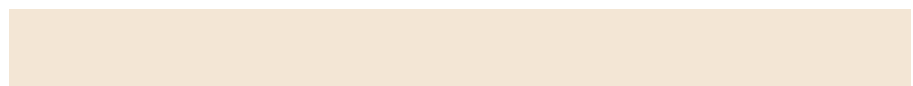
WE NEED YOUR INPUT - PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE.



**STETTLER COUNTY VOTES
2025**



**CELEBRATING OUR PHOTO
CONTEST WINNERS**





Winter 2025

Volume 15 Issue 1

Editor-in-Chief Yvette Cassidy

Managing Editor Niki Thorsteinsson

INTRO

“Remember to celebrate milestones as you prepare for the road ahead.”

Nelson Mandela

What a wonderful milestone it is as we flip the page of our calendars to January 2025, and acknowledge we are in the County of Stettler’s 70th year. As we prepare for the year ahead, we are also celebrating the forethought our ancestors had to settle in this region.

Settlers came here in the 1700’s once the railroad was built. The influx of population necessitated a change in government at the local level and also the need for schools. Four Township Local Improvement Districts were started in 1909, with land prices ranging from 2.5 cents to 5 cents per acre.

On December 9, 1912, the Rural Municipality of Success No. 336 was formed which included nine Township Municipal Districts. The Municipal Districts carried on during the years following the first world war, encountering many and varied difficulties during the early 1930’s.

The 1930’s depression years forced many of the small municipal districts into near bankruptcy, hastening the amalgamation into large MD’s in 1943, with these districts being the forerunners of the County system we have today.

On March 1, 1943, the Municipal District of Stettler No. 336 was formed by merging six of the nine MD’s:

- MD of Success No. 336 (office at Byemoor)
- MD of Dublin No. 356 (office at Gadsby)
- MD of Waverly No. 367 (office at Erskine)
- MD of Lakeside No. 397 (office at Lakeside)
- MD of Vimy No. 337 (office at Big Valley)
- MD of Haig No. 396 (office at Donalda)

On January 1, 1955 the large MD became the County of Stettler No. 6, indicating it was the sixth county formed in the Province of Alberta. We join our friends and neighbours in recognizing the progress made over the years in this region, the contributions to community, while always maintaining a wonderful home-town charm.

We are very proud to call this ‘home’. Happy 70th!

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: Donalda-Red Willow

Paul McKay

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





REEVE'S RAMBLINGS

Larry Clarke - Reeve, County of Stettler

As I look out the window, the thermometer on January 6 is reading -15°C with a forecasted high of -13°C . The last couple of weeks have been a bit of a roller coaster with the Christmas celebrations having very mild temperatures and colder temperatures affecting New Year's celebrations and roads being icier with blowing snow creating drifting, and salt holding snow on the road. With current snow and future precipitations I certainly hope we see water reservoirs recover in all areas but particularly in southern Alberta, and bring our soil moistures up to more acceptable levels to serve urban and agricultural users in the upcoming year.

Prior to year-end I read an article which asked 'do you remember what you were doing a quarter century ago?'. It brought back many memories of Y2K when many world experts predicted our computer systems would crash as they wouldn't be able to seamlessly switch from 1999 to 2000. All sectors were concerned as computers made up so much of our lives, with worries of: a banking collapse; oil and gas facilities unable to be produced or refined; new farm and construction equipment problems; highway equipment not being able to run or even get fuel for that matter; airplanes and navigation systems grounded; medical systems and facilities not having access to critical data and systems; and groceries very limited as groceries wouldn't get to the suppliers and stores and tills and credit cards not working. Personally, I was in agriculture and worked

in oilfield and I spent much of the two years prior to Y2K in preparation for what could potentially occur. I spent New Year's Eve with many co-workers at an oil and gas facility near Big Valley, doing our part to try and keep that part of the world going. I know many other workers in other sectors were doing the same. Midnight came and went with not so much as a power flicker, and we travelled back home to our families on the morning of January 1, 2000, tired but relieved of the outcomes. Looking back this may seem foolish, but many safeguards were put in place and with the preplanning and testing, major issues were alleviated and the world continued forward to the next crisis. Where were you that evening?

As 2024 closes I am proud of Stettler County Council's participation in local activities and all of the provincial boards and associations we sit on, contribute to, and chair. The County of Stettler is invited and welcomed to these committees, and recognized for our forward-thinking approach and participation. As always, we are supported by a terrific CAO, key managers and staff that supply background and accurate data to us, and in many cases overall management which is so important in making decisions and having properly run commissions, authority's and associations. These include Senior Housing, local and provincial Library Boards, local and provincial Agriculture Services Boards, Recreation Boards, Municipal Planning Commission (MPC), local and provincial Emergency Management, Shirley McClellan Regional Water

REEVE'S RAMBLINGS

2021-2025 Council for the County of Stettler - Proud to celebrate 70 years of the County of Stettler.



Services Commission, Stettler District Family and Community Support Services, Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) directors committee, Inter-Municipal Planning Committee (IDP), Stettler Regional Fire Department Advisory Board, Stettler District Ambulance Association, Stettler Waste Management Authority, Stettler Airport, Land Use Bylaw review and steering committee, Physician Recruitment to name a few, and I have missed some as well.

We welcome 2025 bringing us into a new year with new beginnings. As I hold my brand-new grandson I wonder what can I do with my time to leave a better place with a bright future for our new little next generations. Many things have changed in the last 25 years with some better, some worse but change has to happen to move forward.

There will be many changes that effect the next 25 years happening this year, starting with the announcement that Prime Minister Trudeau is stepping down as the Liberal leader. When the opportunity arrives, Canadians need to get out and vote to move Canada forward for the next quarter century.

This is also the year Alberta municipalities hold elections, which will affect the next four years of local politics in our home communities. Please participate and vote in these elections. These elected individuals will represent you for the next four years in budgeting operationally and capital purchases as well as

lobbying provincially and federally to ensure rural Albertans are being treated equally and fairly when compared to urban Albertans and all Canadians. Work on all of the above will continue for us in 2025 and beyond, and day-to-day activities have started with meetings, budget approvals, policy and bylaw reviews and all maintenance and utility activities not stopping throughout the holiday activities.

This week, at the beginning of January, we are meeting with another potential doctor candidate. We are hopeful our doctor additions to this region continue.

2025 is also a year of celebration, with the County of Stettler No. 6 celebrating its 70th birthday! Please join us throughout the year as events unfold marking this milestone. I am very happy I have been able to live in this great county most of my, and its life, and have been able to raise my kids and see some of my grandkids being raised in the Stettler community. I am also very proud to have been able to participate in local government and work with councils for 10% of the life of our county.

Please drive safely on our very busy roads, be patient with icy snowy conditions. As always please treat County of Stettler staff and all of our wonderful business frontline workers with respect as you would your neighbours as you deal with them, as they are truly your neighbours!

Larry Clarke,
REEVE



RSPF FUNDING

Recreation Special Project Funding awarded in 2024:

Council awarded the following applicants with RSPF Funding, based on the County of Stettler Regional Recreation Board recommendations and Administrative Policy 1.22:

- Stettler & District Agriculture Society
lighting upgrades
\$ 11,779.66
- Canadian Northern Society
furnace replacement
\$5,000.00
- Endmoor Drop In Centre
painting
\$4,300.00
- Red Willow Ag Society
furnace replacement
\$ 5,000.00
- Nevis Community Hall
flooring replacement
\$7,607.77
- Endiang Community Hall
flooring replacement
\$ 6,407.03
- Big Valley Senior Centre
furnace replacement
\$5,160.85
- Donalda Agricultural Society
hot water tank replacement
\$2,800.00

Application deadline for 2025 requests is October 15, 2025.

RECYCLE YOUR AGRICULTURE PLASTICS

Recycling Program

The County of Stettler offers FREE recycling of agricultural plastics including chemical jugs, grain bags, and twine through a partnership with CleanFarms.

CleanFarms is a Canadian non-profit organization that focuses on agricultural waste management and recycling programs. These initiatives are designed to promote environmental sustainability, reduce the environmental

impact of agricultural practices, and ensure that these materials are recycled in an environmentally responsible manner.

In 2023, Canadian farmers recycled approximately 2.37 million kilograms of small plastic pesticide and fertilizer

containers (23 liters and smaller) through the CleanFarms recycling program, setting a new record.

This achievement represents an 87% recovery rate, a significant increase from the 77% recovery rate reported in 2021.

Recycling Chemical Jugs

Pick up free chemical jug collection bags from the County of Stettler Shop (19561 TWP RD 38-4) or from any transfer site or landfill location.

Follow these 3Rs to ensure that your chemical jug containers are accepted and can be recycled:

1. Rinse
 - Triple or pressure rinse to ensure no product remains in the container and contaminates the site.
2. Remove
 - Remove caps and booklets (place these in the garbage).
 - Leave the glued-on label intact.
 - Remove metal handles from fertilizer pails.
3. Return

Collection sites include:

- Erskine Transfer Site
- Byemoor Transfer Site
- Gadsby Transfer Site
- Big Valley Transfer Site
- Stettler Transfer Site
- Stettler Regional Landfill





Recycling Grain Bags

Loosely rolled grain bags are bulky, hard to handle, and inefficient to transport for recycling, therefore it is key to roll them. Follow these 3 steps to help ensure your grain bags will be accepted and recycled:

1. Remove Debris
 - Grain bags need to be free of as much foreign material (spoilage, dirt, rocks, etc.) as possible.
 - Prior to collection, stretch out the grain bags rather than leaving them in a clump to ease the rolling process. Larger pieces improve efficiency.
2. Roll
 - Grain bags need to be rolled tightly with a mechanical grain bag roller. Contact Agricultural Services at 403-742-4441 or asb@stettlercounty.ca to schedule assistance!
3. Return
 - Collection sites cannot accept unrolled, extractor-rolled, or hand-rolled grain bags. However, after Agricultural Services rolls your grain bags, they will take the bales with them—no extra work for you.



Twine Recycling

Free twine collection bags can be picked up from the County of Stettler Shop (19561 TWP RD 38-4), please call prior to pick up to ensure a member of Agricultural Services is in the office to assist you - 403-742-4441.

1. Remove Debris
 - Shake to remove debris, snow, or ice.
2. Bag
 - Place loose twine in a collection bag. Only plastic twine is accepted.
 - Bags containing mixed materials (e.g., netting, sisal twine) will be rejected.
3. Return
 - Return filled twine bags to the County of Stettler Public Works Facility, or the Stettler Landfill.



The Great Twine Round-Up



The only project to add to the multi-stakeholder Agriculture and Agri-Food Recycling (AAR) Fund was granted by the Government of Alberta and is administered by Alberta Food Products.

Round-Up Your Used Plastic Twine for a Chance to Win Big Prizes!

\$12,000 in Total Cash Prizes!

From November 01, 2024, to May 31, 2025, bring all the used plastic baler twine you can round-up to a participating Alberta collection site for a chance to win a cash prize.

The more twine you recycle, the better your chances of winning!

Every year, Alberta farms play a huge role in feeding the world, but they also use thousands of rolls of plastic baler twine to make it happen. Recycling that twine keeps plastic out of landfills and stops it from being burned, which is better for our health and the environment.

Not to mention, recycling uses far less energy than making new plastic, so it's a win for the planet too. When you recycle your used plastic, you're protecting our soil, water, and air—and creating a cleaner future for everyone, especially Alberta farms!

That's why Cleanfarms, through the 'Alberta Ag-Plastic. Recycle It!' program, is rewarding those who step up to make a difference. By getting your farming community to recycle plastic baler twine, you're showing the world what awesome Albertan farmers do—and you could walk away with some cash prizes while doing your part!

How it works

1.



Pick up your free twine collection bags

2.



Round-up and bag used plastic baler twine

3.



Label your bag(s) with your 4-H club/district name, or farm name (independent entry) and the date

4.



Take a photo of your bag(s) at the collection site

5.



Submit entry with photo at GreatTwineRoundUp.com

The Great Twine Round-Up

Get involved!

The Great Twine Round-Up is coming to Alberta with \$12,000 in cash prizes for 4-H clubs and ag charities!

Cleanfarms, through the 'Alberta Ag-Plastic. Recycle-it!' pilot program is hosting 'The Great Twine Round-Up'; a new province-wide twine collection contest with four cash prizes of \$3,000 each, for the winners' 4-H club or an Alberta-based agricultural charity of choice.



Here's how to participate:

- Collect used plastic baler twine in the collection bags provided for free at the County of Stettler Public Works Facility (call ahead: 403-742-4441).
- Mark each bag with your 4-H club/district name and the date, if you're participating on behalf of a 4-H club or full name/farm name and the date, if you're participating individually.
- Drop off the bags at a participating collection site between November 1, 2024, and May 31, 2025, and snap a photo of your bags at the site!
- Submit your photo through the contest webpage to enter: greattwineroundup.ca. The more bags you drop off, the more entries you'll have. You'll also be helping to keep used baler twine out of landfills and burn piles. There will be four chances to win:
 - One early-bird prize draw for a winning 4-H club/district in January.
 - Two prize draws at the end of the contest for winning 4-H clubs/districts.
 - One prize draw at the end of the contest for an independent entrant's Alberta-based agricultural charity of choice.

For more information and full contest rules, visit the contest webpage: greattwineroundup.ca

'The Great Twine Round-Up' is part of the 'Alberta Ag Plastic. Recycle it!' pilot program, through which Alberta farmers return used plastic baler twine and grain bags for recycling. Last year, Cleanfarms recycled 673,000 kg of grain bags and 95,400 kg of twine through this pilot. Learn more about this program: <https://cleanfarms.ca/alberta-ag-plastic-recycle-it-program-details/>.



WHAT IS AN ENVIRONMENTAL FARM PLAN?

And why should you have one?

The Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) is a voluntary and free program designed to showcase farmers' dedication to environmental stewardship.

Using a comprehensive self-assessment tool, the EFP evaluates the entire farm, helping producers identify potential environmental risks. At the end of the plan, participants receive a customized list of actionable improvements to enhance their operations.

EFPs remain valid for 10 years, and renewing is made simple through the user-friendly WebBook platform, ensuring the farm's certification stays current. The EFP serves as a valuable resource, offering guidance for sustainable growth and continuous improvement over time.

Having an EFP also improves access to S-CAP Grant funding through programs like RALP which can fund projects including shelterbelts, off-site watering systems, and cross fencing for rotational grazing.

EFPs can typically be completed in about six hours, but vary depending on farm complexity.

Opening your operation up to these opportunities, is as easy as giving our Agricultural Services Department a call at 403-742-4441, or reach out via email to asb@stettlercounty.ca. We are happy to get you signed up and assist you throughout the process.



UPCOMING AG WORKSHOPS AND IMPORTANT DATES

- Stettler Bull Congress – Stettler Ag Society – Jan 31st
- Tree Planting Workshop – Botha Hall – Feb 12th
- Agronomy Update – Stettler Ag Society – Feb 20th 9 AM - 4 PM: \$40/person
- Ladies Livestock Clinic – Rumsey – Feb 27th
- Deadline for Post Secondary Students to apply for the County of Stettler's Ag Services \$1,000 Bursary - April 15, 2025



Plan your Shelterbelt Now - Plant it Spring 2025!

County of Stettler Shelterbelt Program Tree Orders Accepted
Monday, December 9 through Monday, March 17, 2025

- Visit TreeTime.ca to choose your species: PLACE YOUR ORDER WITH THE COUNTY OF SETTLER EARLY FOR BEST SELECTION. (Call: 403-742-4441)
- Register for our *TREE PLANTING & CARE WORKSHOP with Toso Bozic (Call the County of Stettler: 403-742-4441) Wednesday, February 12 at Botha Community Hall from 5 PM - 9 PM
*Participants who attend this workshop will receive 15% off their Tree Program Orders placed through the County of Stettler!
TreeTime orders are delivered mid-May to the County of Stettler Public Works Facility. The County covers all freight charges. Any Bulk Order savings are passed on to customer. Provide us with two contact numbers. Be prepared to pick up orders and plant immediately for best results.



www.StettlerCounty.ca

The County of Stettler No. 6 Agricultural Services Board Bursary will recognize a high school graduate who is a resident of the County of Stettler, who is enrolled in post-secondary education and who has made a contribution to their community.

The bursary will provide assistance to a graduate who demonstrates an interest and awareness about the importance of agriculture to the survival of rural communities.

- A one thousand dollar (\$1000.00) bursary will be awarded each year.
- Deadline to apply is April 15.
- Application forms and details at www.StettlerCounty.ca

Rumsey Community Hall
4:00pm - 8:00 pm

Tickets \$30

Ladies Calving Clinic

Feb 27 2025

Local Livestock Issues- Dr. Molly Rainforth, Maverick Vet Clinic
Colostrum & Peri-natal Care- Dr. Claire Windeyer, UCVM
Calving Basics w/ Calving Simulators- Dr. Jennifer Pearson, UCVM
Vaccine Handling & Storage- Dr. Tamara Quaschnick, Zoetis
Producer Panel

- Swagbags | Door Prizes | Activity Booths | Mocktails | Brisket Dinner

REGISTER

<https://LadiesCalvingClinic2025.eventbrite.com>





MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN & LAND USE BYLAW REVIEW

The County of Stettler is reviewing the Municipal Development Plan and Land Use Bylaw. 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.

More details about the review process are available on the County website at www.stettlercounty.ca/planreview.

One of the steps in the process is to review and confirm the future vision for land use planning in the County. This is communicated through the vision statement and guiding principles found in the Municipal Development Plan. Based on feedback from the workshops in October 2024, a draft update of the vision statement and guiding principles has been created. The draft update is as follows:

Vision (Draft)

It is early October 2052, and, as another harvest comes off the fields, we reflect on our successes and our sense of optimism for the future of our community. We have grown our population in a slow, stable manner as more people seek to live in our beautiful rural setting. We have expanded our employment base to support livelihoods for our community. Businesses of many types and sizes thrive in our county. We have bolstered the public and commercial services needed for the personal well being and development of our community members.

We are immensely proud of our rural roots and heritage. Our community enjoys wide open, visually stunning landscapes and the benefits of our wise stewardship of the land and natural capital. We take pride in our agricultural endeavours and contributions towards feeding the world. We provide a high quality of life and future full of opportunities for current and next generations.

Our path has been marked by both challenges and opportunities. Our long-range land use planning decisions have served us well and have been guided by the following principles:

Guiding Principles (Draft)

a) Protection and Support of Agricultural Uses

Agriculture is fundamental to the County's identity as well as its economy. Use of existing agricultural lands for non-agricultural development must be selective and balanced with the need to accommodate

non-agricultural uses that further other aspects of the County's land use planning goals.

b) Preservation of Environmentally Sensitive Areas and Critical Ecological Functions

The County's environmentally sensitive areas contribute to the County's identity and many natural features provide a range of ecological services to sustain the land and community. Negative impacts on environmental resources should be minimized.

c) Land Use Compatibility

Ensure the intensity, scale, design and any anticipated effects of new use and development is compatible with existing, and future adjacent land uses.

d) Coordination of Infrastructure with Land Use

Ensure land use decisions consider the capacities of existing municipal infrastructure (roads, stormwater, water, and wastewater) or the ability to expand the infrastructure to accommodate any proposed use or intensity of use.

e) Diversification of the Local Economy

Encourage, develop and be open to opportunities for land uses that generate employment and diversify the local economy.

f) Population Growth

Enhance opportunities to live in the County and encourage housing opportunities that offer a range of rural and recreational lifestyles.

g) Partnerships

Work cooperatively with the many agencies that interact with and serve the community to advance mutually beneficial outcomes.

Your Chance to Comment

The draft vision statement and guiding principles are a key part of the update. Your thoughts, comments and observations are welcome and would be greatly appreciated.

You can share your comments with the Steering Committee by:

- visiting www.stettlercounty.ca/planreview and using the comment form/box on the right-hand side of the page
- sending an email to planreview@stettlercounty.ca

What's Next in the Review

Over the first few months of 2025, the Steering Committee will be reviewing options related to key topics and possible policy changes that have been identified thus far. This material will be the subject of public review in the first half of 2025.

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.

VOTES



Stettler County

October 20, 2025

Election Day for the County of Stettler occurs on the third Monday in October, every four years. Candidates can file their papers beginning January 1 of the election year, up until Nomination day, four weeks prior to Election Day.

Nominations are now being accepted at the County of Stettler. Candidates need to complete the nomination form, provide a completed criminal record check, and pay a \$100 deposit.

Nomination forms must be received directly by our Returning Officer, Doreen Nixon.

Appointments must be scheduled to provide Nomination Forms directly to Doreen, as she is not in our offices daily. Contact her by phone at 587-799-1132 or by email at ro@stettlercounty.ca.

Qualifications

To become a municipal candidate, you must be at least 18 years of age on nomination day, a Canadian citizen, and you must have been a resident of the local jurisdiction for the six consecutive months immediately preceding Nomination Day.

In a municipality with a ward system like the County of Stettler No. 6, you must be a resident of the ward in which you intend to run for the six consecutive months immediately preceding nomination day.

For ineligibility details, review 'A Candidate's Guide: Running for Municipal Office in Alberta'.

The Local Authorities Election Act (LAEA) is the main legislation that guides the conduct of a municipal election or by-election. Copies can be obtained through the Alberta Queen's Printer, qp.alberta.ca, 780-427-4952 (toll-free by first dialing 310-0000).

Why Run for Municipal Council?

As a member of council, you will have the opportunity to significantly influence the future of your community. Your effectiveness as a member of council depends on your ability to be an active member of the team and to respectfully persuade the other members of council adopt and support your view.

Decisions of council may only be made by resolution or bylaw and must be made at public meetings, at which a quorum is present. As an elected official, you will also have to find the balance between representing the views of those who elected you and your own individual convictions.

As a member of council, it will be your duty to establish policy for your municipality. It is the job of the administration to implement the policy direction.

Things to Consider

The best way to find out what the job is all about is to spend some time reading relevant municipal documents and talking to current members of council. You may also wish to:

- familiarize yourself with local bylaws and municipal legislation;
- read council agendas and minutes;
- observe council meetings from the gallery or on Stettler County YouTube; and
- talk to municipal staff to find out what other information is available.

BYLAWS AND POLICY UPDATE



Bylaw 1740-24: Election Procedures Bylaw

The County of Stettler passed the Election Procedures Bylaw ahead of the 2025 Municipal Election. This Bylaw designated provisions requiring a Criminal Record Check and Nomination Deposit from all candidates. This Bylaw also outlines a provision to begin counting of special ballots, advanced polls and institutional polls at 7:30 pm on election night.

Policy AF 6.11 – Cemetery Expenses

Council voted to increase annual financial assistance to rural cemetery organizations within the County of Stettler, to \$1,500.

Policy CN 1.10 – Physician Recruitment and Retention Incentive

As part of the County of Stettler’s commitment to attract and retain doctors to our region, Policy CN 1.10, was passed to establish the application for financial incentives for potential doctors.

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



Policy Review Schedule

Since January 2024, Council and Administration have reviewed over one-third of the County of Stettler Policies, putting them online for public review on www.StettlerCounty.ca, prior to passing any changes. Council and Administration are continuing this bylaw and policy review. For information on the current Policies up for review, visit www.StettlerCounty.ca.



Bylaw 1731-24: Water and Wastewater Bylaw

Bylaw 1731-24 was passed to update the Water and Wastewater Bylaw. There were two major changes, the first being an amendment to the septic haul rates for the Buffalo Lake subdivision areas. The rate which was upped to \$35.52/m³ was lowered following ratepayer feedback to \$25.00/m³.

The second change was an increase to the rural water hook-up fee to \$20,000.00.



Planning to Burn?

Make sure you get your permit first.

Every year Stettler Regional Fire is called out to investigate what we call “outside fires”. For the most part during the winter months when the snow is on the ground, they are permitted burns. These usually involve some investigation and likely a phone call to the permit holder or possibly a drive to the location to ensure the fire is under control. In the spring however, when the snow has left, and the strengthening Alberta sunshine dries out the dead vegetation from last year’s growth it is a different situation. The permitted burn from mid-February is long forgotten as preparations are made for seeding or whatever the changing weather has in store for you. It is not uncommon for these burn piles to retain embers even through the long cold Alberta winter, coming back to life with the first strong spring winds - resulting in wildfire. It is important to review the guidelines surrounding burn permits and your responsibility as a permit holder. It is not a bad idea to check your winter burn piles once the snow leaves and as conditions become drier in the spring. The following are some things to remember or refresh your thinking. surrounding burning in the County of Stettler.

- Fire permits are free and will be provided to you by Stettler County, call 403-742-4441. There are terms and conditions associated with the permit which you must follow.
- Burning without a permit can lead to charges, fines or court appearances. Permits are free and available from Stettler County.

Once your permit is issued, it is entered into our database, so we know when and where to expect smoke or fire. Our process is to arrive at the hall and look at our map on a big screen. Active, permitted burns show up on the map and when we select that location, contact information for the permit holder will show up usually a phone number so we can call and verify everything is under control.

You may still see a fire truck/unit in your area, only to ensure that it is indeed you burning, and not another wild land fire. No charges will be incurred by you if you are permitted and following conditions.

If you burn without a permit, and smoke or fire is reported that we are not anticipating, we may dispatch firefighters and apparatus to your location. This is extremely costly, and also a misuse of resources.



Please get a fire permit every time you are planning to do any burning. Remember, it's free.

Remember the Current Conditions of a Fire Permit

- Abide by the requirements of the Forest and Prairie Protection Act and the Substance Release Regulation.
- Obtain a permit to burn stubble from the County of Stettler No. 6 if burning stubble.
- The permit period is limited up to 14 days, including the date on which it was issued.
- Permittee is responsible for the safe control of the burning
- Winds must always be less than 10 km per hour.
- A minimum of one adult must be in attendance at all times.
- Sufficient tools, equipment, and quantities of water must be readily available for the size of the burn being conducted.
- All brush piles and/or permitted debris piles must be buried under ground and covered with soil when burning is complete to ensure the fire cannot re-kindle.

- Permittee must contact the Fire Department's office before burning buildings.
- Consideration must be given to neighbors to avoid physical discomfort as a result of burning.
- The permittee agrees to indemnify and save harmless the County of Stettler No. 6 from all liability arising out of the operations authorized by this fire permit.
- The permittee agrees to pay the cost of the fighting of all fires arising from the initial fire set by the permittee of this fire permit.
- The permittee certifies that they have the landowner's consent to conduct the burn.
- The permit may be cancelled at any time.
- "Burnable debris" means all combustible waste other than prohibited debris and includes

but is not limited to wooden materials, which do not contain wood preservatives, from the construction or demolition of buildings;

- "prohibited debris" means any combustible waste that, when burned, may result in the release to the atmosphere of dense smoke, offensive odors or toxic substances and includes but is not limited to: non-wooden material; waste material from building or construction sites, excluding wooden materials that do not contain wood preservatives; rubber or plastic, or anything containing or coated with rubber or plastic or similar substances, except rubber or plastic attached to shredded scrap steel; wood or wood products containing substances for the purpose of preserving wood.

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.

NEVIS COMMUNITY CENTRE

Call 403-741-7626 to rent Nevis Hall.

The Nevis Community Centre, originally a two-room school built in 1928-1929, now serves as a community hall for the surrounding district. Since the classrooms are closed, it has been renovated numerous times and turned into a modern hall with its own water and sewer facilities.

It was purchased by the Nevis Community Club in December of 1967. With a centennial grant, the inside walls were removed in order to make room for a spacious hall. Meetings are held regularly with many wedding reception/dances, anniversary parties, and family reunions being held there. The board of directors works hard to maintain the facility and to keep it a viable community asset.



If you are interested in renting the facility or becoming a volunteer board member, please call 403-741-7626.

LINDA HALL

Call 403-742-4761 to rent Linda Hall.

At one point, the Linda Hall district, which consisted of 45 families living immediately south of Stettler, was recognized as the largest Estonian settlement in Canada. With so many Estonians' residing here, the Reverend John Sillak made frequent trips to the community to preside over baptisms, weddings and funerals. Between 1909 and 1911, work began on the construction of a community hall. Members of the Estonian community aptly named the structure Linda Hall in honour of the famed Estonian mythological character.

Linda Hall officially opened June 24, 1911. The Estonians who helped build the hall believed that its location represented the very centre of



all of the Estonian settlements located south of Stettler and north of Big Valley.

Linda Hall continues to thrive, being rented often for weddings, anniversaries, dance classes and other family orientated functions. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer board member, have ideas you would like to share with the committee, or interested in renting Linda Hall please call 403-742-4761.

Community Facilities

Book one of these great facilities for your next function. Thank you to all the fantastic community volunteers who keep these community facilities operational!

Big Valley Agriplex 700-1st Avenue South, Big Valley	Kari Wawzkiewica	403-916-5103
Big Valley Ice Rentals	Tara Switzer	403-740-0007
Big Valley Jubilee Hall 36 Main Street, Big Valley	Doreen Mappin	403-876-2739 403-323-3333
Big Valley Legion Hall 70 Main Street, Big Valley	Lorne Parkin	403-876-2097
Botha Community Hall 4921-50th Street Botha	Nadine Fournier	403-741-6126
Botha Arena 5005-49th Avenue Botha	Chris Fournier	587-297-6523
Byemoor Community Hall NW 6-35-16-W4	Michelle Foster	403-968-9485
Donalda Community Hall Alberta Avenue, Donalda	Beth Fulton	403-741-8196
Endiang Community Hall	Leanne Sorensen	403-579-2288
Erskine IOOF Hall SW 6-39-20-W4	Cheryl Fisher	403-740-6616
Fenn Hall NW 5- 37-20-W4 Fenn	Katie Veldkamp	403-340-9414
Gadsby Community Hall SW- 27-38-17-W4 Gadsby	Dan Tuck	403-741-4516
Linda Hall NW -20-37-19-W4	Stan Pennington	403-742-4761
Nevis Community Hall North end of East Avenue, Nevis	Jessica Pivert	403-741-7626
Pilot Knob Hall (no washrooms or heat)	David/Donna Fox	403-741-9744
Red Willow Community Hall SE 19-40-18-W4 Red Willow	Kris Geislinger	780-678-4748
Rochon Sands Hall 2nd Hall Street, Rochon Sands	Lyndsey Delwo	403-742-9442
Stettler Agriplex 4516-52 Stettler	Marj Savage	403-742-6288
Union Hall NW 7-38-21-W4	Karen Spruyt	403-741-9919
Westwoods Agrelot NE 13-40-17-W4	Lee Carothers Marie Bignell	403-574-3761 403-740-3641

Photo Contest Results



**Grand Prize Winner:
'Rainbow covering the combines'
by Delaine Stewart**



**'Sleepy little lamb'
by Adrianna Forre**



**'Patience'
by George Harde**



**Honourable Mention: 'Barn
roof' by Erin Bengert**



**Honourable Mention: 'Family
comes in all shapes and
sizes' by Jane Skocdopole**

Congratulations to all of our 2024 Photo Contest winners!

In honour of the County of Stettler's 70th Birthday, we challenged photographers to submit their photos that represented the experiences of living and visiting the County of Stettler - and did they ever deliver. We think these photos perfectly sum up life in our beautiful corner of the world.



**'Back to work before it rains'
by Jane Skocdopole**



'A kiss for Hudson'
by Brenda Meyer



'Watching over his herd'
by Anika Neilson



'Learning how it's done: 3 generations'
by Brenda Meyer



'End of Summer'
by Karyn Tateson



'Summertime is river time'
by Tana Nixon



'Harvesting under the watchful eye of the cattle'
by Annabel O'Dea



'Murder of ravens'
by Alexis Savoie



'Puppy in training'
by George Harde



'Tobogganing never gets old'
by Brenda Meyer

WEED WATCHING 101

As we head into another season of plant growth, we thought it would be an apt time to share with you, all the weed identification lingo to help you become a weed warrior! Your help is key for us to have public participation in scouting the many many acres of land in our County, for regulated weeds.

We need your help.

Regulatory Obligations:

Under the Alberta Weed Control Act

- Prohibited Noxious – regulated weeds with this status are uncommon or not known to be established in the province and are in the “Early Detection, Rapid Response” stage of invasive plant management. Under the Act, these weeds must be eradicated and destroyed.

- Noxious – plants listed in this category are considered too widely distributed to eradicate, but still pose a risk to agri-environmental productivity and are in the containment stage of invasive species management. Weeds with the “noxious” designation must be controlled from spreading.

Life Cycles:

- Annual - complete their life cycle (germinate, grow, and reproduce) in one year.

- Biennial - complete their life cycle in two years. Most biennials produce a basal rosette (circle of leaves emanating from a central point, typically from a taproot) of leaves in the first year. In the second year, the plant sends up a flowering stalk, sets seed and dies.

- Perennial - plants live for three or more years and continue to grow and reproduce year after year.

Reproductive Strategies:

- By Seed - Controlling seed production is vital. Removing flower heads and seeds prevents reproduction.

- Vegetative Reproduction - Plants spread through roots, rhizomes, or other plant parts. Successful control requires removing all plant parts or using systemic herbicides.

Leaf Arrangements:

- Opposite - Leaves grow in pairs directly across from each other on the stem.

- Alternate - Leaves grow singly at intervals along the stem, alternating sides.

- Whorled - Three or more leaves grow from a single point around the stem.

Control:

- Chemical - Using herbicides to target invasive plants. Always follow label directions and use selective herbicides to avoid harming desirable species.

- Biological - Introducing natural predators, pathogens, or competitors to suppress invasive weed populations. This method often requires professional guidance.

- Mechanical - Physical removal through hand-pulling, digging, or mowing. This is most effective for small infestations or species that reproduce by seed.

By learning these basics, you’re taking the first step in protecting our lands from invasive plants. Stay tuned for more tips, tools, and opportunities to get involved in weed management in the County!

For more information or to report a regulated weed sighting, contact Agricultural Services at 403-742-4441 or asb@stettlercounty.ca. Together, we can make a difference!





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



MARK • IT • DOWN

STETTLER
COUNTY FAIR
&
RODEO

Xtreme Broncs | Rodeo | Heavy Horse
Show | Beef Show | Poultry Show | Bench
Show | Market & More



STETTLER DISTRICT
AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

JUL 29 - AUG 2

Fun for the Whole Family!

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PREPARATIONS

Supporting our communities.



On December 12, 2024 the Stettler Regional Emergency Management Agency hosted its annual tabletop exercise, focusing on an active shooter threat.

Participants included: Clearview School Division, Staff from William E. Hay High School, Stettler RCMP, Stettler Regional Fire Service, Stettler District Ambulance Association, Stettler FCSS, the County of Stettler, Town of Stettler, Village of Big Valley, and the Summer Village of Rochon Sands.

- The Tabletop Exercise was coordinated to further develop and enhance the effectiveness of our first responders, while also identifying potential pitfalls and discrepancies within policies and procedures of the School and School Board, Law Enforcement, Fire/EMS and our municipal entities.
- As a result of the exercise, an Active Shooter Hazard Specific Plan will be created in early 2025 will outline:
 - 1) How a Regional Emergency Coordination Center working in Unified Command with the Clearview School Division will coordinate information sharing to the general public as well as other agencies and organizations through a Joint information Center.
 - 2) Establish messaging standards for partner organizations as well as pre-created messages to assist with enhancing information sharing timelines.
 - 3) Assign preestablished duties to County of Stettler Protective Services, Stettler Regional Fire Service, and Stettler District Ambulance Association in the event that information exchange with Stettler RCMP is delayed

Another result of the Tabletop Exercise was the importance of updating, reviewing, and practicing lockdown and shelter in place procedures for municipal staff members across the region. Plans and preparation towards a lockdown vary across the region as do the security standards for each organization.

Future Exercises to include:

- Dickson Dam collapse affecting infrastructure and water lines
- Train derailment of dangerous goods

Past Exercises include:

- Tornado affecting Stettler Industrial Park and communities to the east
- Winter Snowstorm event that caused road closures and prolonged loss of power

A WORLD OF POSSIBILITIES: STETTLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Winter Programming



Cozy up this Winter with the Stettler Public Library.

Your library membership unlocks a world of possibilities. From thousands of free eBooks and audiobooks to powerful databases for learning and research, there's something for everyone. Explore our eLibrary at prl.ab.ca/elibrary and access resources like PressReader, CloudLibrary, Libby, and much more—all from the comfort of your home.

But that's just the beginning. The library is also your destination for exciting programs and events for all ages. Here's what we have in store for January and February:

Special Events:

Understanding Stalking: Monday, January 8 at 6:30 PM

Join Stephanie from the Association of Communities Against Abuse (ACAA) to learn about unhealthy relationship behaviors, warning signs, and resources for help.

Business Selling Made Easier: Monday, January 15 at 6:30 PM (via Zoom or join us at the library). Learn from Gil Poulin of BizPlanSell as he shares decades of expertise on preparing your business for sale. Please register at 403-742-2292.

High Arctic Adventures: Monday, January 22 at 6:30 PM

Travel enthusiasts Rob and Mechtild will share their

breathtaking journey through the Arctic in Canada and Greenland, showcasing its unique landscapes, flora, and fauna.

Family Literacy Day: Monday, January 29, 5–6 PM

Celebrate literacy with a special family story time with activities and snacks. Bring your favourite stuffed animal along for the stuffy sleepover at the library.

Make sure you let us know if you read for 15 minutes on January 27 as that is the day of the **Read for 15 Challenge**. Call us at 403-742-2292 or scan the QR code to report online.



Family Day Festivities: Monday, February 17 at the Stettler Recreation Centre

Save the date for skating, swimming, games, and live entertainment. Don't miss this exciting community celebration! Spend some quality time having fun together and strengthen your family bonds.

Special Program:

Come for a Byte (50+): Tuesdays: January 7, February 25, March 25, from 11 AM–1 PM



Bring your phone or tablet and learn how to make the most of your device and stay safe online. Lunch is provided at this free program provided in partnership with the Stettler Adult Learning Centre. Call 403-742-2292 to register.

Ongoing Programs:

Read & Rhyme: Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at 10:30 AM

Meet up with other parents and caregivers to share stories, songs, and rhymes with your little ones and spark early literacy skills. Sign up for the 1000 books before kindergarten program and receive a free board book for every 100 books you read together (repeats count).

LEGO Club: Biweekly Saturdays at 3 PM

LEGO play isn't just fun – it's a powerful tool for developing creativity, problem-solving skills, and teamwork. Building with LEGO encourages children to think critically, follow instructions, and design their own creations, fostering both cognitive and fine motor skills. The possibilities are endless, making LEGO a perfect activity for all ages (6+).

Crystal's Crafting Club: Select Thursdays at 6:30 PM

Enjoy themed DIY sessions, from spa treats to heart-shaped wreaths. Whether you are a seasoned crafter or just starting out, this club offers a welcoming space to unwind, and make beautiful items to take home. Supplies are provided, but pre-registration is required.

Teen Scene (ages 10+): Wednesdays at 4:30 PM

Teens and 'tweens can enjoy a variety of activities, and meet up with friends. Check the library brochure for upcoming events designed to inspire and entertain youth ages 10 and up.

Dungeons & Dragons (ages 13+): Tuesdays at 5:30 PM

Embark on epic quests and forge your own legends in our ongoing D&D program. Whether you're a seasoned adventurer or new to the game, join us for storytelling, strategy, and fun!

Stettler Art Club 18+: Thursdays from 6–8 PM

Pack up your latest project and join other local artists at the Stettler Art Club! Whether you're painting, sketching, or working on something entirely unique, this is your chance to connect with fellow creatives, share ideas, and inspire one another in a supportive and welcoming environment.

Whether you're learning new skills, meeting friends, or enjoying a great book, your library has you covered. Visit us at 6202-44 Avenue, call us at 403-742-2292, or find us on Facebook. We can't wait to see you at the library!

Submitted by Stettler Public Library

IMAGINE A WORLD WITHOUT RECYCLING

If Alberta had not started collecting and recycling over the past 30 years, through the Alberta Recycling Management Authority...

- Imagine 150 MILLION tires since 1992 in our Alberta landfills!
- Imagine 2.3 BILLION litres of used oil since 1997 in our landfills!
- Imagine 280 MILLION tonnes of electronics since 2004 in our landfills!
- Imagine 37 MILLION litres of paint since 2008 in our landfills!



Fun fact:

Alberta was the first province in Canada to begin tire collection and recycling in 1992.

A huge tire fire in eastern Alberta prompted Premier Don Getty to task his Minister of the Environment, Ralph Klein, to come up with a solution.

Fun fact:

The eco-fees paid with the purchase of these products cover the cost of the collection and recycling.

Fun fact:

The Alberta Recycling Management Authority is now beginning investigations into recycling options for solar panels, wind generation products, and EV batteries.

Thank you, Alberta, for being a leader in handling our waste responsibly!

Submitted by: Grace Fix

SAVE A TREE!



**Get e-versions of County Connection Magazine at www.StettlerCounty.ca:
Email info@stettlercounty.ca to cancel your paper subscription.**

COMMUNITY

BREAKING NEWS: CHANGED MEETING TIME

Stettler Cancer Support Group

Together Courageous



Our group is open to everyone in our community and surrounding areas. Those fighting cancer, survivors, families, friends, and caregivers to support each other, access resources as NO ONE should battle CANCER ALONE!!! A shout out to our Doctors, Oncologists, Therapists and ALL Medical Staff who walk with us. THANK YOU!!!

BOARD OF TRADE OFFICES (Next to Tim Horton's)

MEETING TIMES: 7 PM; 1ST Monday of Month

Contact:

Connie Cox at davis.conniecox@gmail.com
403-741-8419

Wendy Keith at dwgjkeith@gmail.com
403-741-8305

Bertha "Ellie" Walker at ellie11bee@gmail.com
403 740 2443

Facebook: Stettler Cancer Support Group Together Courageous

NO ONE SHOULD FIGHT CANCER ALONE!



Stettler Festival of Lights

Stettler Health Services Foundation is happy to announce their annual event raised over \$125,000. This amount may increase after more donations are received that were held up in the postal strike. This amount will fully fund three overhead ceiling lifts to assist patients in the acute and long-term care areas within the Stettler hospital. SHSF also very much appreciates the Stettler Superfluity Shop for donating \$7940.00 to the project.

Amy Roberts, Festival of Lights chairperson, commented "this year was another Festival of Lights filled with laughter, smiles and people enjoying supporting a great cause. The support from Stettler and surrounding area is once again, incredible."

Byemoor 100-year Centennial Celebration

Saturday, June 7th is the date. Good old fashioned Elks Picnic-themed celebration. Pack a picnic lunch, food trucks also available. Volunteers contact Doreen Nixon 403-740-9546 (text) Theresa Christie 403-741-7525 (text) Kim Wasdal 403-579-3760 (phone)

COMMUNITY EVENTS

2025 COUNTY OF COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS

Thursday, March 6
Hosted by Stettler District
Agricultural Society

*Accepting Nominations until
Friday, February 14 for:*

- **Atco Cultural, Arts and Heritage Award:** Presented to individuals who have proven to be major contributors to culture, arts and heritage in our communities.
- **Stettler Dodge Community Service Award:** Presented to those persons who have made an outstanding contribution to recreation in their communities.

*Contact lhankins@stettlercounty.ca
for more information or call
403-742-4441.*



The poster for the Big Jack Classic Buffalo Lake Family Fishing Derby features a central graphic of a large fish with a lure in its mouth. Text on the poster includes: "\$6000+ Cash & Prizes", "February 15 & 16", "Big Jack Classic", "Buffalo Lake Family Fishing Derby", "Buffalo Lake, AB", a QR code, and the website "BIGJACKCLASSIC.CA". The Stettler logo is in the bottom right corner. The background shows several people holding large fish in a snowy, outdoor setting.



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