



Stettler County

# CONNECTION

WINTER 2026

# STETTLER COUNTY VOTED

MEET YOUR 2025-2029  
COUNCIL.

PAGE 5-11



# **FEBRUARY 1, 2026 PROPERTY TAX PENALTY REMINDER**

Ratepayers are reminded that an 8 percent (8%) penalty will be added to the total outstanding taxes on February 1, 2026.

Payments can be made by CASH, CHEQUE, TELEBANKING, INTERAC, at most financial institutions and must be made no later than January 30, 2026 – the last working day in January.

Cheques mailed will also need to be post-marked, by the post office, no later than January 30, 2026.

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

Payments can also be made online. Choose County of Stettler; Taxes; Account is your Roll Number, enter amount of payment. If you own more than one property you will have to enter each property separately. If you have any questions, please contact our office at (403) 742-4441.



## ON THE COVER

Photo by Eric Smith, winner of the 2025 Photo Contest.

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## Winter 2026

Volume 16 Issue 1

Editor-in-Chief Yvette Cassidy

Managing Editor Niki Thorsteinsson

# INTRO

*"A community is not just a place to live, it is a place to belong."— Unknown*

As we begin a new year, we also begin a new chapter for the County of Stettler with the introduction of our Council for the 2025–2029 term.

This group of dedicated community members steps forward with a shared commitment to serve, listen, and lead on behalf of the people who call this County home. Each councillor brings their own experiences, perspectives, and deep connection to the communities they represent, united by a common responsibility to make thoughtful, long-term decisions.

Their work begins at an important time, as the draft 2026-2029 budget is workshopped, debated and then later, carefully considered. This process is about more than numbers. It is about weighing needs, planning for the future, and ensuring every dollar is used wisely to support the services, infrastructure, and opportunities that sustain our rural way of life.

January has also arrived with the full character of winter. Snow-covered roads, cold mornings, and long nights remind us that rural living is not always easy, not for the faint of heart, but always strengthened by our community. Across the County, neighbours help neighbours, check on one another, and lend a hand without being asked. These quiet acts of kindness are the true foundation of local government and community life, and they are something to be deeply proud of.

That same pride is beautifully captured in our 2025 photo contest submissions. The images shared by residents reflect not just stunning landscapes, but a deep love for this place and the moments that make it special. They tell stories of resilience, beauty, and belonging.

As you turn the pages of this magazine and view the winning photographs, we hope you feel what we feel every day. Gratitude for the people, the land, and the strong sense of connection that makes the County of Stettler such a remarkable place to call home.

**Niki Thorsteinsson**  
Director of Communications

### County of Stettler

#### CAO

Yvette Cassidy

#### Councillors

##### Ward 1: Byemoor-Endiang

Clint Walker

##### Ward 2: Big Valley

Wade Hunter

##### Ward 3: Botha-Gadsby

Larry Clarke

##### Ward 4: Erskine-South Warden

James Nibourg

##### Ward 5: Stettler

Allan Gano

##### Ward 6: Erskine-Buffalo Lake

Justin Stevens

##### Ward 7: Donaldia-Red Willow

Janet Adam

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# REEVE'S RAMBLINGS

*Larry Clarke - Reeve, County of Stettler*

## Happy New Year's 2026.

As I look out the window at the thermometer on January 5, 2026, the temperature is a frosty cool -15° C but the afternoons sun makes it feel more pleasant. The forecast shows a warmer trend coming which I certainly welcome. Kids are back to school after Christmas break and we are all starting into 2026.

The close of 2025 brought changes to the County of Stettler with election 2025. I would like to welcome the four new councillors at the table which you will be introduced to in this addition. We held our organizational meeting which I was elected in as Reeve again, and Councillor Al Gano was elected as Deputy Reeve for the year and all board and committee positions were filled. The structure of the Agriculture Services Board is changing to now have five members of Council and now, two members-at-large and also includes the introduction of the Heartland Regional Fire Board. We have participated in numerous training sessions, plus Council and budget meetings. I look forward to continuing to have these and other required meetings as we roll into 2026, to continue the successful operations of the County of Stettler.

An election year can be a very stressful time in a municipality. Hats off to CAO Cassidy and staff for the continued professionalism and municipal knowledge in making this process as smooth as possible with the proper operation of our County always the key goal.

We have a busy year ahead of us and as we work through this year's strategic plan and budget cycle's we will continue to look at and challenge services and service levels to ensure we are supplying what the majority of our residents need and want, and meet the Municipal Government Act requirements.

Continual focus will be on:

- Road maintenance and rejuvenation. Roads are one of our largest assets and also an aging infrastructure of the County of Stettler which requires changing maintenance procedures to meet current loads, consideration of current levels of usage and weather patterns.
- Bridge replacements. Replacements are based on failing infrastructure and our bridges are inspected annually and are load-rated based on engineering specifications. Several of our aging bridges require derating to acceptable weight limits, forcing some to be closed or dropped to a 10-tonne limit which prohibits graders or even a fully loaded school bus to cross. Bridge replacements rely on provincial funding.
- Rural water transmission and distribution to get adequate supply of water to areas needing it.
- Heartland Regional Fire, ensuring coverage in all areas of our municipality and the many provincial highways running through it.
- Agricultural services and working closely with

## REEVE'S RAMBLINGS

public works ensuring roadside vegetation control and all other services are being provided in the most cost-effective manner.

- We will continue to lobby the provincial government for fair provincial funding for rural Alberta through all grants and projects including support for special projects within the County of Stettler.

We are well represented and respected with the RMA (Rural Municipalities of Alberta) and bring forward our concerns through the district meetings and resolution process and question periods at the spring and fall conventions.

I have been District 2 Chairman for the past 2 years with our administration handling the administration duties for our district, this commitment will be complete January 9, 2026 when a new chair is nominated. At the Fall convention in November, I was honoured to be elected to the RMA board of directors as the representative for District 2. This board directs the operation of RMA and also has you on Board of Directors for Genesis Insurance and Canoe Procurement that provides cost effective

group insurance and purchasing to many rural and urban municipalities in Alberta and now in many other provinces. District 2 represents the Counties of Stettler, Paintearth, Ponoka, Lacombe, Red Deer, Mountain View, Clearwater, Big Horn, Rockyview, Wheatland, Kneehill, Starland, Acadia and Special Areas. I look forward to representing this district and the County of Stettler on these boards and the committees I have been appointed to. Councillor Nibourg is the President of ASCHA (Alberta Seniors & Community Housing Association) so County of Stettler is represented well on these boards.

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



Larry Clarke,  
REEVE



Reeve Clarke being introduced with fellow members of the RMA Board of Directors at the Fall 2025 Rural Municipalities of Alberta Convention and Tradeshow.

(L-R: Gene Hrabec, Karen Rosvold, Larry Clarke, Kelly Christman, Jason Schneider (Vice President), Josh Bishop, and Kara Westerlund (President))



# MEET YOUR NEW COUNCIL! 2025 - 2029

My name is Clint Walker I have been married for 39 years and have three daughters and four grandchildren. My family homesteaded east of Byemoor in 1909.

I was raised on a mixed farm and was educated in Byemoor, Endiang and graduated from Stettler High School. I obtained my power engineering certificate and worked away from home for five years and returned to the community to live, so my children would be raised and educated in the same community as I was.



I was president of the curling club as well as vice president of the SLW Ag Society, and sat on the Community Recreation Board. I also helped build the Byemoor Curling Rink and participated in the construction of the Hall and I look forward to serving our community as Councillor for the Byemoor-Endiang Ward.

**CLINT WALKER - WARD 1, BYEMOOR-ENDIANG**



My name is Wade Hunter, and I am honoured to serve as the Councillor for Ward 2, Big Valley. I was born and raised in the Big Valley area and have lived here my entire life. I continue to reside on our family farm southeast of Big Valley, where my roots run deep. This community has been home to my family for generations, and it is where I chose to raise my four children. They all attended Big Valley School, played local sports, and were actively involved in community events. Today, I am the proud grandparent of nine grandchildren, and

I enjoy following them to the rink and spending time with them as they grow up in the same communities that shaped me.

I received my Red Seal Plumbing and Heating diploma from NAIT and have worked in that field throughout my career. Alongside my trade, I operated a mixed farming business, and have also gained experience in the oil and gas industry. These experiences have given me a strong appreciation for the value of hard work, problem solving, and the importance of supporting both local business and agriculture, which are key parts of our region's success.

Community involvement has always been important to me. I believe volunteers are the backbone of any strong community, and I have been fortunate to contribute in many ways. I was instrumental in the construction and completion of the Big Valley Arena, coached minor and senior hockey in both Big Valley and Stettler, and spent many hours volunteering throughout my community. I was also honoured to have received the Stettler County Volunteer Award. These experiences have shown me how much can be achieved when people come together with a shared purpose.

My decision to run for council came from a belief that strong, transparent, and collaborative leadership is essential for our county to thrive. It is easy to sit back and voice concerns, but I felt it was time to step forward, get involved, and help make a difference. I want residents to feel comfortable approaching me with their ideas, questions, and concerns. This is my first term as a councillor for Stettler County, and while there is a learning curve, I am fully committed to working hard, listening carefully, and ensuring that our tax dollars work effectively for the people of Ward 2.

## WADE HUNTER - WARD 2, BIG VALLEY



I am a 4th generation resident of the Botha-Gadsby Ward 3 area, within the beautiful County of Stettler. I am the proud dad of four girls and a grandfather of five boys and five girls. It makes me proud seeing my grandchildren be taught to take pride in their community, volunteer and step up to make our communities better.

I have had the privilege of serving as the Botha-Gadsby Councillor and Reeve for the County of Stettler for the past eight years. I am honoured to serve in these roles again and look forward to the

challenge of representing the County of Stettler through these tough financial years, and to working with our Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) and council to make the changes to policy and bylaws ensuring that the County of Stettler move forward in serving the residents of the County of Stettler and the communities we are so much a part of.

The experience I bring to the table includes being a founding Chairman of the Gadsby Water Co-op since the early 1990's and I am currently Chair of the Shirley McClellan Regional Water Commission. I also have a vast oil and gas background and have been instrumental in the development of the Mature Asset Strategy, working with municipal and Alberta government officials to ensure that rural municipalities and residents are being paid and treated fairly. I have been very involved in doctor recruitment for the Stettler community. We have successfully filled the void and now we need to maintain it. I have been part of the Fire Transition Committee, moving to Heartland Regional Fire and working with volunteers, staff and communities to fairly serve our community. I have an agricultural background and am a cow/calf producer so I bring a balance of business, agricultural, community and municipal conversation to any table I sit at. In each of these roles, I bring a passion to work together and find solutions that benefit all community members in a fair and equitable manner.

We need to continue to work through our land use bylaw to seek and promote good development within our borders. We will need to work collaboratively with our neighbouring municipalities and the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) to lobby on items that require the changes to help Alberta and rural Alberta ensuring we receive equitable treatment and services as all Albertans.

I wanted to become a councillor to contribute back to the County I grew up in, raised my family in, and am now seeing some of my children raising their families in. We have many challenges ahead of us and we will work together not only meet but exceed past these challenges.

## LARRY CLARKE - WARD 3, BOTHA-GADSBY



I was born and raised in the Erskine area and has happily lived in the County of Stettler for most all my life.

I am the excessively proud father of four children, grandfather of three awesome grandchildren, and count my life to be blessed being married for almost 33 years.

I am a local businessman/farmer and have been a County Councillor since 2010.

When I'm not involved in the tasks for our County, I can be found shearing sheep, sheep farming, playing beer league hockey or maybe doing my favourite, just drinking coffee and talking politics.

I also have a passion for Seniors, Housing and Economic development. I sit as the President of ASCHA (Alberta Seniors & Community Housing Association), a provincial housing advocacy association which helps drive my passions.

I truly believe we are one community in the heart of Alberta. I am very excited to be back as a councillor to serve the people of Erskine South-Warden. I truly believes the key word is "serve". Elected officials are meant to serve their respected communities and boards they sit on.

## **JAMES NIBOURG - WARD 4, ERSKINE SOUTH-WARDEN**



I am proud to call the County of Stettler home for more than 30 years. My wife, Barb, and I raised our three children here, and today our daughter, son-in-law, and five grandchildren also live in this wonderful community. On our farm southeast of Stettler, we run a small cattle herd and enjoy being part of a strong agricultural region rooted in hard work and community spirit.

Service to others has always been important to me. I have been a member of the Rotary Club of Stettler for over 25 years and currently serve as president. I also coach youth sports and volunteer with the Stettler & District Food Bank, experiences that have reinforced the value of teamwork, respect, and collaboration.

Before joining council, I spent 38 years in the electric utility industry, where I gained financial expertise, leadership experience, and a commitment to accountability. These skills guide my approach to public service.

As councillor for the 2025–2029 term, I am honoured to represent all residents of the County of Stettler. I remain focused on fiscal responsibility, transparent decision-making, and collaboration at every level.

“Working together for a stronger Stettler community.”

## ALLAN GANO - WARD 5, STETTLER





I am proud to call Stettler home for the past 25 years. My wife and I have chosen to raise our two sons here. When not at work or council they always seem to keep us busy. We love the lifestyle this community allows us to live.

I have spent my entire adult life in the construction industry from tradesman through to business owner, with experiences ranging from Civil, water/sewer, oil and gas, electrical generation and transmission.

I believe these experiences serve me well with such a large portion of our budget being public works.

Entering my second term I believe the knowledge I gained during my first term leaves me well-positioned to take on our upcoming challenges. I am committed to engaging with the public and maintaining a fiscal lense on all decisions. My commitment is to serve and leave our community in better shape than when I started.

## JUSTIN STEVENS - WARD 6, ERSKINE-BUFFALO LAKE

# HOW TO CONTACT YOUR COUNCIL! 2025 - 2029

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

Larry Clarke   Botha-Gadsby Ward	403-740-5482 • lclarke@stettlercounty.ca
Allan Gano   Stettler Ward	587-282-1644 • agano@stettlercounty.ca
Wade Hunter   Big Valley	403-323-0433 • whunter@stettlercounty.ca
Janet Adam   Red Willow-Donalda Ward	403-323-0779 • jadam@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
Clint Walker   Byemoor-Endiang Ward	403-740-5003 • cwalker@stettlercounty.ca



I was born and raised in the lower mainland of British Columbia. I was very active in the deaf community and was a secretary and intervenor for the deaf blind in Vancouver.

In addition to volunteering with the deaf, I also coached skating for all ages, and was head coach for Special Olympics. I graduated college with diplomas in Community Support Work and Special Education Assistant, which led me to be a care worker and foster parent to special needs and behavior challenged

children. Working with special needs and having an aging grandfather, I discovered a need for adapted clothing and began designing specialty items with their dignity in mind. Following my dream, I left the care work behind and became a long haul truck driver, taking my children on the road with me.

In 2007, I moved to Alberta with my two children, then five and seven. In 2015, I went back to school to become a massage therapist. I met my husband in 2015, and we made Red Willow our home in 2019 when we married.

I have enjoyed serving my community by being a mobile massage and foot care therapist and have been an active participant in the Red Willow Agriculture Society. I hold classes in the community in sign language and crafting and I volunteer with community activities like the Red Willow Country Fair.

I look forward to further serving our community as a County Councillor for Ward 7.

**JANET ADAM - WARD 7, DONALDA-RED WILLOW**

# CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2025 PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS

The County of Stettler No. 6 is pleased to announce the winners of our 2025 Annual Photo Contest , all were featured in the 2026 County of Stettler Calendar, and took home some prizes.

Congratulations to this year's Grand Prize Winner, Eric Smith, whose striking black-and-white photograph "The Great Train Robbery in Black & White" earned him an iPad and a feature spot for the month of June.

We also celebrate each of the talented photographers whose beautiful entries appear throughout our 2026 calendar at our November 26 Regular Council Meeting.

This year's featured photos include (from left to right starting at the top of page 13):

Front Cover – Paige Jones, "Memphis Checking Cows on His 2-year Old"

January – April Jones, "Feeding Her Lambs"

February – Corina Derr, "Oh My Heart"

March – George Harde, "Beaver Pumpernickle"

April – Corina Derr, "Life is Good"

May – Glenn Munden, "White Sands Long Exposure"

June – Contest Winner Eric Smith, "The Great Train Robbery in Black & White"

July – Amber Buliziuk, "Summer Sky"

August – Grant Hunter, "It's Too Hot"

September – Chris Clark, "Swathing"

October – Raechel Boertien, "Harvesting Beneath the Northern Lights"

November – Gloria Umali, "Converting the Pond at the Back to a Skating Rink"

December – Annabel O'Dea, "Up to Trouble"

Honourable Mention #1 – Amber Buliziuk, "Summer Friend"

Honourable Mention #2 – Les Stulberg, "MOOving Day"

The County wishes to express heartfelt thanks to every photographer who submitted images this year. We received an incredible number of breathtaking photos, so many that narrowing them down was no easy task.

A special thank-you is extended to our volunteer firefighters from Heartland Regional Fire, who generously donated their time to review submissions and select this year's winners. Their dedication, both in service and community involvement, is always deeply appreciated.

Each photo submission we received showcases the extraordinary beauty of our landscapes, our people, our livestock and pets, and the daily moments that define life in the County of Stettler. This contest is a reminder of how lucky we are to call this place home, where our rural heritage, natural scenery, and strong sense of community come together in a way few places can match.



# 2026 RECREATION SPECIAL PROJECT FUNDING

## *Regional Recreation Board Recommends Eight Projects*

The Regional Recreation Board made its final recommendation to Council regarding the allocation of 2026 Recreation Special Project Funding at the December 10, 2025 Regular Council Meeting.

For 2026, the maximum funding available through the Recreation Special Project Reserve is \$50,000.00. The Regional Recreation Board recommended approval of projects totaling \$49,999.32, as outlined below.

### Recommended Projects for Funding

- Stettler & District Agricultural Society - Sprinkler System & Signage: \$10,696.80
- Clearview Public Schools - Donalda Outdoor Sport Court: \$2,880.00
- Big Valley Agricultural Society - Score Clock: \$8,000.00
- Botha Seniors Centre - Entrance Cement Work: \$10,000.00
- Red Willow Agricultural Society - Painting of the Hall: \$5,000.00
- Botha Community Centre - Hall Lighting & Arena Repairs: \$6,522.52
- Endmoor Drop-In Centre - Window Repairs: \$400.00
- Rochon Sands Hall - Air Conditioner: \$6,500.00

These recommended projects are intended to enhance recreational infrastructure, improve accessibility and safety, and strengthen community spaces throughout the County of Stettler.

"Recreation facilities play a vital role in the health, connection, and quality of life in our rural communities," said Larry Clarke, Reeve for the County of Stettler No. 6.

"These recommended projects reflect Council's ongoing commitment to supporting safe, accessible, and well-maintained community spaces that serve residents across the County of Stettler. We are grateful to the volunteer organizations and community groups whose dedication helps make these projects possible."

Recreation Special Project Funding was established in 2006 to help support the construction and enhancement of recreational facilities throughout the County of Stettler. These facilities are recognized for their ability and dedication to serving the needs of the County's rural populations.

Over the past 20 years, the County of Stettler has approved funding for approximately 100 projects, totaling \$1,760,180.59. Funded projects have included major facility improvements such as new roofs, furnaces, flooring, windows, and electrical and plumbing upgrades, as well as the development of community playgrounds and baseball diamonds across our County.

# HEARTLAND REGIONAL FIRE

## Help First Responders Help You.

If you have a **home alarm system**, make sure your alarm company has your current phone number and emergency contacts.

If an alarm is triggered by mistake, contact your alarm provider right away so they can stand down the fire department.

If your property is **gated or secured**, consider providing the fire department with access information, such as a gate code.

This can save valuable time in an emergency and help crews respond quickly and safely when it matters most.

## Public Works Important Deadlines in the County of Stettler

*Mark your calendars - set reminders for these important deadlines.*

### Shelterbelt Deadline

Orders Due March 31

### Roadside Clean-Up

Application Deadline March 31 Annually

### Dust Reduction

Application Deadline April 30 Annually

### Spray Exemption

Application Deadline April 15 Annually

### Grazing Right of Ways

Cease October 30 Annually

### Snowplowing Private Laneways

Application Deadline October 31 (Last Business Day in October)

### Roadside Brushing

September—March Annually

### Mowing/Haying Right Away

Application Deadline June 15 Annually

### Utilities

**Water meters installed/reinstalled or turned on** at the Lake starting the 2nd week of May Annually

\*Note – Water usage is the responsibility of the property owner – all water services should be turned off and secured to eliminate tampering when not present at your property.

**Water meters uninstalled or shut off at the Lake starting 1st week of October Annually**

\*Note – Water usage is the responsibility of the property owner – all water services should be turned off and secured to eliminate tampering when not present at your property.

# STETTTLER

## SEED CLEANING PLANT

- Cleaning and processing of cereals
- Cleaning peas
- Provide seed testing services
- Authorized establishment (inspected)
- Grading services

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Quality you can count on.

**4211-47 Avenue, Stettler, AB**  
**403-742-2905**

Clean Seed for Stronger Yields  
[stettlerseedplant@gmail.com](mailto:stettlerseedplant@gmail.com)



## 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.

# SOLAR POWER PLANTS IN STETTLE COUNTY

As of December 2025, two proposals for the development of solar power plants have been made for properties within the County of Stettler. The first is the Stettler Solar Project, put forward by ABO Energy Canada Ltd., on one and a half quarter sections of land on the south side of Township Road 38-4 one mile east of Highway 56. The proposed plant would have a capacity to generate 25 megawatts (MW) of electricity and battery storage for 9.6 MW. Details can be found on their project website at [www.stettlersolar.com](http://www.stettlersolar.com).

The second project is the Red Willow Solar and Energy Storage Project, proposed by Westbridge Renewable Energy Corporation. This project encompasses the majority of thirteen (13) quarter sections along the south side of Highway 601 to the east of the Hamlet of Red Willow. It would have a capacity of 225 megawatts (MW) and battery storage for 100 MW. More details can be found on their website at [www.westbridge.energy/red-willow/](http://www.westbridge.energy/red-willow/).

## *Provincial Approval Process*

The approval of the size and location of proposed commercial scale solar power plants rests with the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC). Proponents are expected to complete landowner and public consultation and a list of studies of potential impacts to submit to the AUC. The AUC process affords an affected party the ability to express concerns and participate in a hearing to address concerns. More details about this process are available at [www.auc.ab.ca](http://www.auc.ab.ca) or by contacting the AUC at 403-592-4500 or [info@auc.ab.ca](mailto:info@auc.ab.ca).

An AUC Hearing was held for the Stettler Solar and Storage Project between June 16 and August 15, 2025. A decision was issued by the AUC on October 27, 2025 approving the project. An AUC Hearing was held for the Red Willow Solar and Energy Storage Project was held between October 14 and October 17, 2025.

As of writing, a decision from the AUC has not been issued for this project. A decision is expected in January 2026.

## *County Role*

As the local planning authority, the County of Stettler will consider development permit applications for each proposed project once a project has obtained their approval from the AUC. The County approval comes second so that the development permit conditions can be consistent with the AUC approval. This is a requirement of Provincial planning legislation. The County's decision can not set aside the AUC decision nor can it make it impossible for the proponent to meet the requirements of both the AUC and the County.

As the host municipality for the proposed projects, the County of Stettler made submissions during both AUC hearings. This gave the County the opportunity to express views on issues relating to topics like weed and vegetation management, farmland impacts, road impacts during construction, visual appearance on the land and similar land use planning matters.

For more information about the County's role in the approval of solar power plants, please contact Craig Teal, RPP MCIP, at 403 742 4441 ext. 119 or [cteal@stettlercounty.ca](mailto:cteal@stettlercounty.ca).





Agricultural Services  
403-742-4441 or [asb@stettlercounty.ca](mailto:asb@stettlercounty.ca)



### Grain Bag Rolling



Service Available Upon Request!  
**FREE OF CHARGE**  
Call 403-742-4441 to book!

**We roll and remove grain bags.**

We ask that the bags be spread out to facilitate the rolling process.

We will also remove pre-rolled bags from your property.



### Rental Equipment

Equipment Available:

- Cattle Scale
- Spraying Equipment
- Water Pump and Hose
- Skunk and Magpie Traps
- Tree Planter and Plastic Mulch Applicator
- More!

Equipment available to rent for charge or deposit.

To rent call 403-742-4441!



PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

### Volunteer Drivers Needed!

Since starting in 2023, the Volunteer Driver Program has provided over 300 trips for community members who need transportation to medical appointments and essential services. Demand continues to grow, and we are looking for additional volunteer drivers to help support this important program.

Currently, a small group of drivers completes most trips, and adding more volunteers would help share the workload. Trips typically range from 1 to 10 per month and may include travel to Red Deer, Calgary, Drumheller, Wetaskiwin, Innisfail, Lacombe, Camrose, and occasionally Edmonton. Volunteers choose trips based on their availability.

Drivers are compensated at \$0.61 per kilometre for the round trip, with additional wait time beyond two hours paid at \$20 per hour. The program primarily serves seniors, as well as AISH and Income Support clients.

Volunteering as a driver is a rewarding way to support your community while receiving mileage compensation.

For more information or to volunteer, please contact:

Reanne Wagner, Stettler and District Family and Community Support Services (FCSS)

403-742-2337

[reanne.wagner@stettlercsc.ca](mailto:reanne.wagner@stettlercsc.ca)

"Every adventure requires the first step."

# Ladies Night Out

## Mad Hatter's Wonderland

February 21, 2026

Stettler Community Hall  
Cocktails 5:30pm  
Supper 6:30pm  
*Meal By TC Catering*  
DJ & Entertainment to follow

### Tickets \$70

Available from Stettler Kinette Club Members  
Raffles | Costume Prizes | Specialty Drinks

Brought to you by the Kinette Club of Stettler

# TREE-MENDOUS MOISTURE CAPTURE

## The Value of Shelterbelts

### Plan your shelterbelt today!

Shelterbelts—also known as windbreaks—are rows of trees or shrubs planted along fields, farmyards, or livestock areas. Their main purpose is to reduce wind speed, but they also provide many added benefits for agriculture, the environment, and rural communities.

Why Shelterbelts Matter:

### Soil Protection

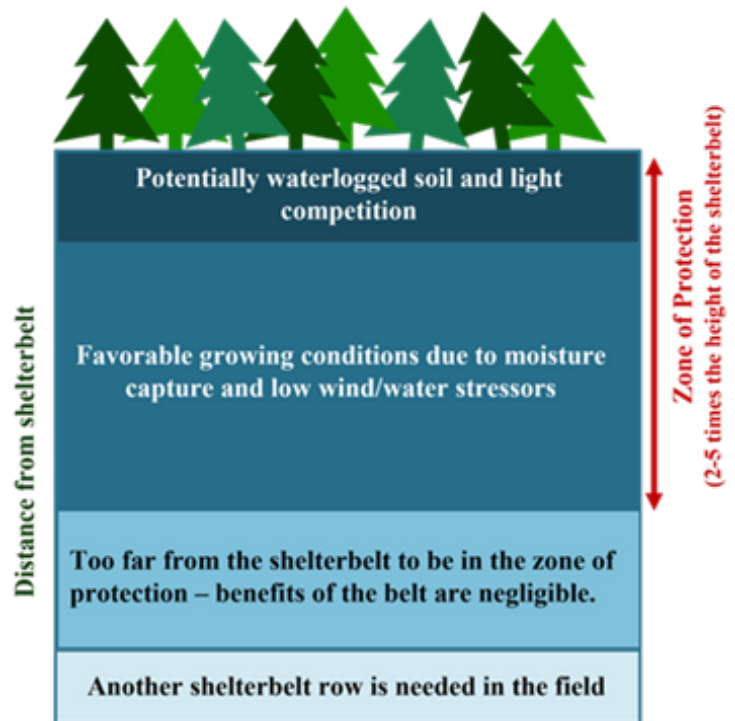
- Lowers soil erosion and topsoil loss
- Protects soil structure and organic matter
- Minimizes crop abrasion and seedling damage
- Reduces swath movement and harvest losses

### Moisture Management

- Slow wind on the downwind side, creating back pressure
- Increase snow capture for improved spring moisture
- Protect areas 2–5 times the height of the shelterbelt
  - o Effectiveness is maximized when shelterbelts are:
    - Dense but semi-porous (not solid walls)
    - Continuous, with no gaps
    - Oriented perpendicular to prevailing winds
    - At least 10 times longer than their height

### Crop and Farm Benefits

- Reduced wind stress leads to:
  - o Improved plant vigor
  - o More uniform crop development
  - o Increased yield stability, especially in dry or windy years
- Reduced crop lodging
- Improved cattle performance and feed savings



### Environmental Benefits

- Provide wildlife corridors and habitat
- Support birds, mammals, insects, and pollinators
- Filter runoff and improve water quality
- Capture carbon and support climate resilience

### Economic and Social Value

- Reduce heating costs around homes and farmyards
- Improve landscape appearance
- Increase property value
- Add recreational and aesthetic appeal

Well-designed shelterbelts are one of the most effective tools for building resilient agricultural systems. More than just rows of trees, they are long-term investments in sustainability, productivity, and community well-being.

The County of Stettler has a Shelterbelt Program and educational workshops to help you establish or improve shelterbelts on your property.



# SHELTERBELT PROGRAM 2026

## NEW 2026 partnership with Echoglen Gardens!

Orders open until March 31, 2026.

Order and Learn More



Species selected for success

Larger trees for more vigor

Potential for bulk discounts

15% Shelterbelt Workshop discounts available!  
2026 Details Coming Soon.



For More Information - Agricultural Services:  
asb@stettlercounty.ca or 403-742-4441

<https://www.shopechogलगardens.com/shelterbelt-program/>



# WEED WATCHING 101

## Common Baby's Breath

### Designation: Noxious

Baby's Breath — a symbol of everlasting love — is actually noxious weed species. Yet it is still used extensively in the floral industry. If you receive a bouquet containing Baby's Breath, do not compost it - remove it from the bouquet and place it in a sealed trash bag to prevent it from spreading. Better yet, if you are choosing a bouquet for your special someone, pick one that doesn't contain Baby's Breath.

At maturity and in full bloom, Baby's Breath might reach three to four feet tall; however, its thick taproot extends deep into the ground as much as four times its height.

### Identification

- Height: 60–100 cm (2–3 ft), occasionally taller
- Stems: Smooth, round, and highly branched
- Leaves:
  - o Narrow, lance-shaped
  - o Bluish-green with a waxy coating
  - o Opposite arrangement
- Flowers:
  - o Small, white (sometimes pink)
  - o Five petals
  - o Large, airy clusters from mid to late summer

Being a tumbleweed gives it an advantage when it comes to dispersing itself and establishing in new locations through its seeds.

Baby's Breath can be effectively controlled by repeated cultivation and herbicide application.

### Prevention

- o Do not plant Baby's Breath in gardens or landscapes
- o Clean equipment and vehicles after working in infested areas
- o Monitor disturbed sites regularly

Pretty doesn't mean harmless. Common Baby's Breath is a resilient and invasive plant that demands early detection, consistent control, and responsible disposal to protect Alberta's landscapes and agricultural productivity.

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.

## Baby's Breath



# STETTLEH HISTORY BOOK PRE-ORDER ONLY

Order yours before February 15, 2026!

## STETTLEH AND DISTRICT HISTORY BOOK



We are a group of volunteers that started in 2016 working very diligently and wholeheartedly towards the publication of our area’s history. There has never been a book about Stettler and area, therefore our research and story writing began prior to 1900 to present, a daunting task with thousands of volunteer hours. We have compiled over 3000 pages in color, over 1200 family stories and 1000 local businesses and organizations. The Stettler and District History Book project will provide the community with a priceless historical document.

### *How can you help*

Please consider sponsoring our project. We need financing for a downpayment on book production and any level of sponsorship is appreciated and will be acknowledged in the book. All sponsors must be submitted and paid by **January 31, 2026**. Please consider the following opportunities.

PLATINUM: \$5000.00 or more	BUSINESS ADVERTISING \$500.00
GOLD: \$1000.00	FAMILY TRIBUTE: \$300.00
SILVER: \$500.00	
BRONZE: \$100.00	

### *How to Order*

These hand-bound hard cover books are only available for pre-order until **February 15, 2026**, so be sure to order quickly. We expect the set of books to cost approximately \$400, therefore we will require a \$200 non-refundable deposit to guarantee printing, **as only pre-orders will be printed**. Books will be printed in March and April and distributed in May through July.

Please make cheques payable to “Stettler History Book” and can be mailed to Box 1437, Stettler, AB. T0C 2L0, along with your order request. ETransfers can be sent to [historybookstettler@gmail.com](mailto:historybookstettler@gmail.com)

For more information visit [www.stettleranddistricthistorybook.com](http://www.stettleranddistricthistorybook.com) or call 403-741-2361.

Please share this with interested family and friends!

Thank you for your support,

*Your Stettler & District History Book Sponsorship Committee*

# BYLAWS AND POLICY UPDATE



## Bylaw 1753-25: Designated Officers Bylaw

The County of Stettler passed the Designated Officers Bylaw. This bylaw continues to establish the Designated Officer roles, but does not name the individuals. Instead, the role is filled by virtue of another appointment (as agricultural fieldman or assessor). This bylaw works hand-in-hand with the CAO Bylaw, the CAO is a designated officer for all enactments and bylaws and has the authority to delegate those powers and duties to any employee of the County.

## Policy CN 1.12 - Firefighter Health Benefits

In October 2025, Council passed the Firefighter Health Benefits Policy. This policy is designed to support the health and well-being of firefighters by providing additional financial assistance for eligible medical and health-related expenses through a Health Spending Account (HSA). Eligible volunteer firefighters, as outlined in the Policy, are supported with access to an annual, non-taxable Health Spending Account of up to \$2,000 to reimburse eligible health expenses not covered by provincial or private health plans.

## Policy CN 1.01 - Council Renumeration

At the first annual Organizational meeting Council amended the Council Renumeration Policy by lowering the monthly Councilor Preparation/Supervision Day amount from \$800.00 to \$750.00. The intent of this change was to redirect \$50 of their monthly income towards Council meals (meals provided when they attend full day meetings at the County Administration Building).



**QUICK COUNTY CONNECTION**  
BYLAWS & POLICIES

Get more  
info online



## Apply today for our 2026 ASB Bursary!

*Deadline to apply - April 15*

Our Ag Services Board is now accepting Bursary applications for a \$1,000 ASB Bursary!

Are you successfully enrolled into a post-secondary institution, in any year of studies?

Are you a resident of the County of Stettler No. 6?

Apply today!

Details at [www.StettlerCounty.ca](http://www.StettlerCounty.ca).



# COMMUNITY EFFORT LEADS TO REMARKABLE SUCCESS

## Health Professionals Attraction & Retention Committee Shares Success Story in attracting new doctors to the Stettler region.

The Health Professional Attraction and Retention (HPA&R) Committee is proud to share the tremendous success of the community's ongoing efforts of overcoming our local physician shortage.

In the spring of 2024, Stettler faced a significant challenge with only six practicing physicians, less than half of the 14 doctors needed to meet our community's population needs. Just over a year later, the picture had changed dramatically. As of September 2025, Stettler now has 13 doctors actively practicing in the community, an outstanding achievement that reflects the power of collaboration, creativity, and commitment.

This success is the direct result of a true community partnership. The HPA&R Committee includes representatives from the Town and County of Stettler, the Stettler Needs Doctors group, Heartland Medical Clinic, Stettler Medical Clinic, the Stettler Hospital, and RhPAP (Rural Health Professions Action Plan), along with an HPA&R Coordinator, Byron Geddes from the Stettler Regional Board of Trade. The Stettler Health Services Foundation also plays a vital supporting role, alongside unwavering dedication from our local physicians, health care staff, and community volunteers. In 2024 and into 2025, residents and visitors endured the difficulties of doctor shortages, many temporary emergency room closures, and several shortages in obstetrics which took maternity patients to neighboring communities to deliver.

"What we've learned through this doctor shortage process is that we have an amazing and welcoming community who is not afraid to think and work outside of the box. And also, that doctors bring

doctors," said Dean Lovell, Chair of the HPA&R Committee. "The medical community's willingness to support recruitment, refer colleagues, and welcome new practitioners has been extraordinary. Our success belongs to everyone who leaned in, stayed patient, and believed in a community-driven approach."

The HPA&R Committee's strategy included combined joint commitment incentives from the Town and County, curated recruitment efforts from local business owners and our community, interest-free loans from the Stettler Health Services Foundation, and a doctor informational website and referral program from the Stettler Needs Doctors group. "This multi-pronged, community-based model has proven, that when a region rallies together, it can solve even the most pressing challenges," added Dean Lovell.

As an added benefit, Stettler has not experienced any Emergency Room closures for several months. This is a positive shift that has improved access to care for residents, reduced stress for health care staff, and kept our ambulances serving patients locally rather than moving them to hospitals outside of our region.

Residents who are still seeking a family doctor are encouraged to contact either Heartland Medical Clinic or Stettler Medical Clinic directly. While new doctors often go through phases of opening and closing their books as they take on more patients the chances of finding a physician in the Stettler region have greatly improved.

"We are not aware of another community of our size that has achieved this level of recruitment success in just 12 months," added Chair Dean Lovell. "The Stettler region rose to the challenge and in our opinion, knocked it out of the park."

The HPA&R Committee continues to meet regularly to plan and prepare for the future health care needs of our community, ensuring this success story continues and identifying, planning and preparing for future challenges.

# Your Friendly Neighbourhood Book Pushers



If you've made a resolution for 2026, to read more, learn something new, spend less time on your phone, or get out and do more as a family, the Stettler Public Library is here to help. Think of us as your friendly neighbourhood book pushers, giving you that gentle nudge (okay, maybe more like a friendly shove) toward great stories, new ideas, and a little more time well spent.

First things first: library memberships are free, and they open the door to an entire world of stories, information, and entertainment. Along with shelves full of books waiting to be discovered, you'll also find 24/7 access to our eLibrary, which includes Libby for ebooks and audiobooks and PressReader for newspapers and magazines from around the world (in multiple languages). Explore it all on our brand-new website: <https://www.stettlerpubliclibrary.ca>.

This winter, we're encouraging everyone to pick up more books in 2026. Reading builds focus, lowers stress, improves sleep, and fuels your imagination in ways that scrolling just can't. Imagine what you could do with even a few minutes a day reclaimed from your phone, your future self will thank you.

## January: Celebrate Family Literacy

We're starting the year with one of our coziest traditions, the International Family Literacy Day Party, this time with a pajama twist. Join us on Tuesday, January 27 at 4 p.m. wearing your comfiest pajamas for stories, games, and oven s'mores (because everything is better with chocolate). January 27 is also

the day we take part in the Read for 15 Challenge! We're asking everyone in Stettler County to read for just 15 minutes that day and let us know about it. Report your reading here:

<https://parklandab.wufoo.com/forms/read-for-15-minutes-challenge/>

This year, we'll be asking whether you live in the Town or County of Stettler, let's see who the most readerly folks are!

## February: Family Day Fun

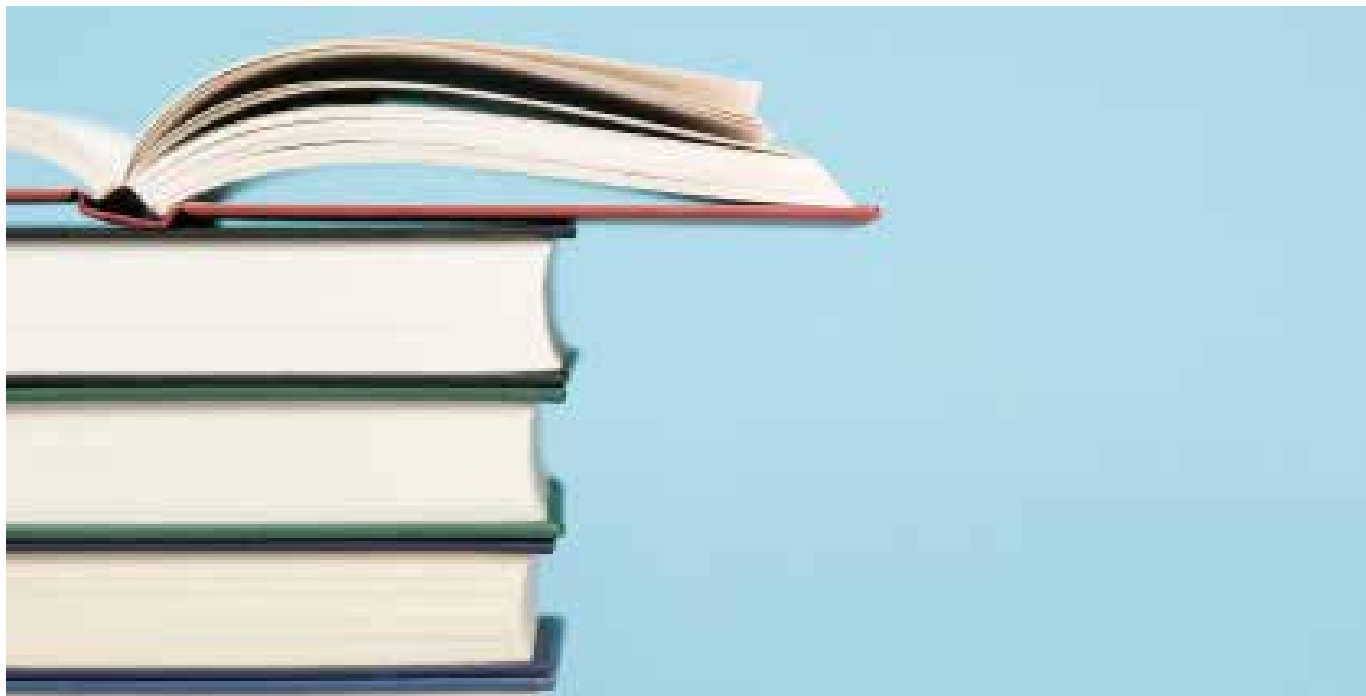
Join us on Monday, February 16 at the Stettler Recreation Centre for a full day of fun! The library is thrilled to bring in Kompany Family Theatre for a family-friendly show over the lunch break. Round up your crew and make a day of it, with swimming, skating, pancake breakfast, lunch, and plenty of activities with our community partners. There's something for everyone!

## March & Early April: School Break Fun

One of our yearly highlights! From March 30 through April 6, we'll be hosting something fun every day at 1 p.m. for children ages six and up. If you're looking for screen-free, creativity-sparking activities this is it.

April: Find Us at the Trade Show

Stop by our booth at the Stettler Trade Show, April 10-12! We'll have updates on upcoming programs, plus a quick community survey you can fill out for a chance to win an amazing gift basket featuring



a brand-new Kobo eReader and reader-approved goodies.

### **Don't Forget the Friends of the Library**

The Friends will be hosting its Giant Book Sale during the weekend of the Stettler Trade Show on April 10, 11 and 12th. That means that you can start dropping off your donations of gently used books, DVDs, Blu-rays, and CDs as of March 2.

Thanks to the work of Crystal's Crochet Club, the Friends will be having a Mother's Day raffle of a beautiful community-made granny square afghan to raise money for library programming. The tickets will be for sale at the library's Trade Show booth, upstairs in the library, and through any Friends of the Library member through the month of April. The draw date will be May 9.

### **Put it on Your Calendar**

The next Mocktails and Masterpieces evening will be May 1 at 6:30 pm. Gather your friends and enjoy a night full of snacks, a special mocktail, painting and community. Everyone will create a beautiful spring lake scene. Get all of this for the event fee of \$25 per person. Registration will open in March.

### **Stay in the Know**

To see everything that is happening over the next few weeks, visit our website and download the current program brochure from our website. The

current brochure includes events through the end of February. You can also sign up for our monthly email newsletter so you'll never miss an update. Subscribe here: <https://parklandab.wufoo.com/forms/subscribe-to-our-monthly-email-newsletter/>

### **Looking Ahead in 2026**

A new year is the perfect time to set fresh goals, and your library is ready to help. Whether you're planning an adventure (and need travel guides or language resources), exploring new recipes, navigating life with teens, diving into regenerative agriculture, building homes for animals, getting your finances in order, or picking up painting or photography. We have something for every interest.

And finally, we'd love to hear from you. Do you have a program idea or a talent you'd like to share? Let's chat! Call us at 403-742-2292 or stop by the library, we always love hearing from you and want to know how we can serve you better.

Happy reading, Stettler County. Here's to a year full of stories, ideas, and imagination. Let's make 2026 a great year for books.

*Submitted by Stettler Public Library*



# Recycling guide

Recycle right! Only put accepted materials in your recycling to ensure more materials get recycled.

**DON'T BURN IT.  
RECYCLE IT!**

*Did you know?*

-Cardboard releases toxins when burned

Burning cardboard means the resources used to make the cardboard are lost forever.

*What can you do?*

-Place your cardboard in the Mixed Recycle Bins at the Transfer Sites.

Place only very soiled cardboard in the Burn Pits

### Paper and cardboard

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### Metal and plastic containers

<div style="background-color: white; color: #004a80; padding: 5px; border-radius: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> <span style="font-size: 24px; font-weight: bold;">✓</span> <b>Yes please!</b> </div> <table border="0" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Foil trays </td> <td style="padding: 2px;">Pet food cans </td> <td style="padding: 2px;">Sardine cans </td> <td style="padding: 2px;">Soup cans </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Pie trays </td> <td style="padding: 2px;">Formula tins </td> <td style="padding: 2px;">Foil </td> <td style="padding: 2px;">Candy tins </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Condiment bottles </td> <td style="padding: 2px;">Dessert butter jars </td> <td style="padding: 2px;">Cooking oil jugs </td> <td style="padding: 2px;">Detergent bottles </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Shampoo bottles </td> <td style="padding: 2px;">Yogurt cups </td> <td style="padding: 2px;">Solid containers </td> <td style="padding: 2px;">Take out trays </td> </tr> </table>	Foil trays 	Pet food cans 	Sardine cans 	Soup cans 	Pie trays 	Formula tins 	Foil 	Candy tins 	Condiment bottles 	Dessert butter jars 	Cooking oil jugs 	Detergent bottles 	Shampoo bottles 	Yogurt cups 	Solid containers 	Take out trays 	<div style="background-color: white; color: #004a80; padding: 5px; border-radius: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> <span style="font-size: 24px; font-weight: bold;">✗</span> <b>No thanks!</b> </div> <table border="0" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Accessories </td> <td style="padding: 2px;">Cookware </td> <td style="padding: 2px;">Pressure tanks </td> <td style="padding: 2px;">Utensils </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Metal toys </td> <td style="padding: 2px;">Dishware </td> <td style="padding: 2px;">Containers with residue </td> <td style="padding: 2px;">Paint cans </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Toothbrushes </td> <td style="padding: 2px;">Combs </td> <td style="padding: 2px;">CD/DVD cases </td> <td style="padding: 2px;">Plastic toys </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Pails and buckets </td> <td style="padding: 2px;">Balloons and ribbons </td> <td style="padding: 2px;">Diapers </td> <td style="padding: 2px;">Food storage containers </td> </tr> </table>	Accessories 	Cookware 	Pressure tanks 	Utensils 	Metal toys 	Dishware 	Containers with residue 	Paint cans 	Toothbrushes 	Combs 	CD/DVD cases 	Plastic toys 	Pails and buckets 	Balloons and ribbons 	Diapers 	Food storage containers 
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**Burning Cardboard**



**Recycling Cardboard**



**Get e-versions of County Connection Magazine at [www.StettlerCounty.ca](http://www.StettlerCounty.ca): Email [info@stettlercounty.ca](mailto:info@stettlercounty.ca) to cancel your paper subscription.**

**Burning eliminates tons of usable resources.  
Keep them in use instead!**

# COMMUNITY

## NOMINATIONS ARE OPEN

### COUNTY OF STETTLER '26 COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS

TELL US ABOUT A DESERVING COMMUNITY MEMBER WHO HAS MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR COMMUNITY. SHARE CONTRIBUTIONS TO CULTURE, ARTS, HERITAGE AND RECREATION.



THE 48TH ANNUAL COUNTY OF STETTLER COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS WILL TAKE PLACE ON MARCH 5, 2026, HOSTED BY WESTWOODS COMMUNITY CENTRE



**SUBMIT NOMINATIONS TO**  
RECREATION@STETTLERCOUNTY.CA  
**BY FEBRUARY 13, 2026**



**No better way to say I LOVE YOU this February 14!**

Register today for the Big Jack Classic at Buffalo Lake Alberta, February 14-15, 2026!

The last week of November saw the annual **2025 Stettler Festival of Lights** take place at the Community Hall in Stettler. Many people enjoyed the weeklong event, culminating in a Hawaiian themed gala on Saturday, November 30.

Stettler Health Services Foundation is happy to announce that the annual event raised over \$125,000.00. 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."

# COMMUNITY EVENTS



## Are you a County of Stettler Business Owner? We need your voice!

We invite you to complete our Rural Business & Organizations Needs Assessment Survey, designed to help us understand what tools, resources, and supports will help your business or organization thrive. Your feedback will guide the development of a website that will:

- Promote rural businesses and organizations
- Support entrepreneurs, leaders, and employees
- Strengthen our local business community
- Attract new investment to Stettler County

The survey takes just 10–15 minutes, and as a thank-you, we'll draw one winner of \$100 Heart of Alberta Dollars for every 10 participants (up to 5 prizes).

**Survey closes January 31, 2026**

Scan the code or visit [www.surveymonkey.com/r/Stettler6](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Stettler6)

If you have questions or need technical support,  
please contact [info@stettlercounty.ca](mailto:info@stettlercounty.ca).



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