

Fall 2018

Stettler County Connection

CANNABIS

AND THE COUNTY

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FARM FIRE SAFETY

ARE YOU READY?

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Tax

Payment
Deadline

October 31

Inside Cover



TAXES PAYMENT DEADLINE WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 31

***Tax payments will continue to be collected at the County Administration Building - not at the new Public Works Facility.**

Options for Tax Payment are as follows:

- Interac*
- Cash*
- Cheque
- Online Banking
- Or payment can be made at most banking institutions.
- Autopay Program (Tipps) – Tax Payments can be distributed over 12 months if you sign up for our

Autopay Program. Your 2018 Taxes must be paid in full, at a zero balance, and then you may register to begin Autopay for January 1, 2019, for the 2019 Tax Year. Payments will be automatically withdrawn from your bank account each month.

Telebanking

The County of Stettler No. 6 is implementing a new banking system where payments will be downloaded into our financial system directly from the bank. Through this process the payments for Taxes and Utilities need to be separate. When making your online payments for taxes and utilities you need to enter the following:

- Taxes: Use your Roll Number or Customer ID.
- Utilities: Use your Customer ID or Utility Account Number.



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COUNTY CONNECTION

INTRO

“Once she stopped rushing through life, she was amazed at how much more life she had time for.”

As the sun starts setting on the beautiful summer of 2018, I am beginning to see the signs of harvest. This made me think about all of our hard working farmers and ranchers who will now be spurred on by the inevitable changing weather, to harvest their crops, move cattle and hope the clock doesn't tick to winter before they have had a chance to complete all of their necessary work.

If you take the time you will see this happening as well, but often, we get busy scurrying through life and are too busy to notice. This becomes a problem when we get too stressed out, run late and then get in too much of a hurry. Come on, we've all been there...barreling down the gravel road when we see a combine at an approach, and silently pray they see us a mile away, and wait for us to go by. I mean, wouldn't it be terrible if they actually have the NERVE to pull out in front of us, causing us to change our speed?

This fall, join the challenge of taking a deep breath, and ACTUALLY slowing down for our farmers and our ranchers. Let's help them get their very important tasks complete. Let's be good neighbors and friends and not get into too much of a hurry to share our roads. You might even be pleasantly surprised at what you'll have time to see.

Niki Thorsteinsson
Director of Communications



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Clarke's Shop Fire - July 15, 2018

REEVE'S RAMBLINGS

With such a busy summer I had to make a decision on what to put in this Reeve's Ramblings. I could have talked about the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) conference in Halifax, developments in the County, the interesting learnings at the summer Agricultural Services Board (ASB) Summer Tour in Strathcona County, or how the weather was so hot, dry and smoky as I put this to paper. The evening of July 25, 2018 made me decide what to talk about.

July 25 was a normal, hot summer day and had been a day of meetings and then I was home to complete more farm work. My son-in-law and I were working on the hay bine and when complete he went to cut hay and I left to repair some fence in a pasture. I then received a call approximately 45 minutes later from my daughter that our shop was on fire. When I arrived in the yard there were many people who were helping move equipment and vehicles from around the building and the lean-to shed that was safe to access.

Fire crews and emergency personal responded quickly and fought the fire, directed traffic and made sure everyone was OK. Zenith Contracting was going by and stopped with his track hoe and assisted the fire crews in removing tin from roof and walls so that the fire crew's efforts and water could be directed where required. As the evening progressed White Sands Colony helped with whatever they could and the ladies from the colony provided a much needed supper for the firefighters and volunteers. The last of the fire trucks pulled out of the yard in the early hours of the 26th to clean and prepare their trucks for the next fire.

The last couple of weeks have seen fire investigations and insurance dealings. A suggestion

I have for you now, is to take the time to properly inventory your belongings by taking pictures and listing your contents in your shops/outbuildings, and even more importantly your home, as you may struggle to remember everything especially in an emotionally draining time. We also need to give our fire fighters room to work and gain access to where the fire is, so make sure if you're helping that all vehicles are parked well back to allow full access. We are well down the path of inventory, cleanup and preparing to rebuild our structure.

The most important thing with all of the fire, smoke and activities that happened that evening was that nobody was hurt and all items are only things and can be replaced. A night like that night made me realize why we have chosen to live and raise our family in rural Alberta and the County of Stettler. We had neighbors and complete strangers stop and help that evening to do anything they could do. We have had offers of equipment, tools and time on whatever we may need in the upcoming weeks as we rebuild and go through our day to day farm activities, plus many calls of concern.

In closing I would like to thank the Stettler, Byemore and Big Valley Fire departments for their quick response, professionalism and for giving up their time to help others; Zenith Contracting; White Sands Colony and all neighbors, strangers and family who have helped us through this.

Please be careful in your travels and all you do, obey fire bans, and be a rural Albertan who helps their neighbors.

Larry Clarke, REEVE

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The 2017 Grand Prize Photo was taken by Alice Visscher.

2018 PHOTO CONTEST 'AT WORK IN STETTLER COUNTY'

Calling all shutterbugs! We are again inviting all amateur photographers to take part in our annual Photography Contest, highlighting beautiful Stettler County. Citizens are invited to submit up to three photos to our 2018 Photo Contest, starting now. The deadline for submissions is Thursday, November 1, 2018 at midnight.

This year's calendar theme is going to be 'At Work in Stettler County'. In November, a panel of judges will assemble to choose their top 13 favorite photos depicting 'At Work in Stettler County', (12 months plus a cover) to be featured on our 2019 County Calendar.

Judges will then decide, which one of the 13 photos submitted encompasses the idea of

'At Work in Stettler County' the best, and best portrays the story in their photo. The Grand Prize Winner will be awarded an iPad mini. Get creative! With each submission you will be invited to caption your entry.

There will be prizes for all photographers whose photos are chosen to be featured in our 2019 calendar.

This contest is open to everyone - including County staff and councillors. All photos MUST be taken in the County of Stettler - and will be verified, in order to be eligible.

For full contest details, or to upload your entries, please visit www.stettlercounty.ca.



Red Willow Community Hall - one of the many great facilities maintained by communities throughout Stettler County.

DEADLINE OCTOBER 31 SPECIAL PROJECT FUNDING

The Recreation Special Project Funding was established in 2006 in order to set aside funds to help with the construction and/or enhancement of recreational facilities and assist with programs in order to serve the needs of the County's rural population, with the exception of properties owned by the Stettler Agricultural Society.

Over the last 12 years, over \$1.4 million has been distributed to over 30 organizations within the County of Stettler to improve and upgrade many of our recreational facilities.

The October 31 deadline to apply for funding is coming. In 2017, the following projects were approved for Recreation Special Project Funding in the amount of \$52,357.77:

Botha Community Centre	Bathroom Renovations	\$8400.00
Donalda Agriculture Society	Willow Creek Canyon Road	\$3000.00
Gadsby Community Centre	Bathroom Renovations	\$6760.00
Linda Hall	New well	\$4800.00
Stettler & District Ag Society	Riding Arena roof repairs	\$12,000.00
Big Valley Agriculture Society	Arena glass replacement	\$5000.00
Big Valley Drop in Centre	Repair of flood damage	\$7397.77
Erskine Social Recreation Society	Outdoor rink improvements	\$5000.00

Applications are now available in a 'fillable form online' on the County of Stettler website at www.stettlercounty.ca. The deadline for applications is October 31, annually.

CANNABIS AND THE COUNTY OF STETTLE

What did our community say?

On June 10, 2018 The County of Stettler launched an online survey to ask our community their feelings about cannabis legalization and how the County can make bylaws that reflect their values. The survey ran for 51 days and we had 646 responses.

General Information

Our survey showed that 60% of our respondents were in favour of the legalization of Cannabis. Sometimes, our assumption is that because we are rural, we are also very conservative with all of our values, but this particular statistic does show that sometimes our assumptions are wrong.

When looking at the second question on our survey, 'What are the issues surrounding cannabis that you are most concerned with?' the top five answers were:

Impaired Driving

Public Smoking & Vaping of Cannabis

Education for Youth

Workplace Safety

Odors from Smoking Cannabis in Public

These responses seem to indicate that the actual consumption of Cannabis is not as large of a concern, as how the consumption of Cannabis will affect the general public. Many

people in the comments indicated they were in favour of treating cannabis a lot like alcohol, where the consumption is done in the privacy of your own home or licensed facilities, and that there are concrete rules governing the safe use of Cannabis.

We also asked respondents to indicate to us their likelihood to participate in Cannabis activities once they are legal. 65% of respondents indicated they will not be growing plants in their homes, even though growing up to four plants per household will be legal. It is also good to note that our respondents, in terms of age, were a great representation of our population make up as a whole. The curve on the age brackets is very similar to the age curve of our entire population, with the majority of respondents between the ages of 25 and 54.

We then asked citizens a series of specific questions relating to things that the County of Stettler can change through bylaws and policies.

Public Consumption

When asked where the County of Stettler should allow the public smoking of Cannabis, 46% of the population chose "none of the above" when a list of public places was presented. Further to that, 38% thought it would be ok to allow the smoking of cannabis on municipal reserve and green spaces that are not playgrounds. 80% of respondents did not want smoking of Cannabis to be allowed on sidewalks, walking trails or in parking lots and roadside turnouts. Further, 60% of the respondents strongly or somewhat agreed



that smoking cannabis should strictly be limited to private property. When asked if cannabis should be treated like tobacco when it comes to public consumption, 49% of the population strongly or somewhat disagreed.

Location of Retail Locations

There are few controls within the Land Use Bylaw that the County of Stettler can use to influence where Cannabis retail stores are located, including minimum setbacks and distances from vulnerable locations (ie. Schools) and choosing the zones in which cannabis retail stores are permitted to locate. When asked if they are concerned with how close cannabis stores are to one another, 78% of the respondents either had no opinion on the matter, or did not have a concern with how close they would be to one another. When asked about retail store locations in relation to schools and playgrounds, 67% indicated that they were very, or somewhat concerned with how close cannabis stores would be to those locations. When asked about how far away cannabis stores should be from schools, playgrounds and parks, 59% indicated that a distance of 200m (about the width of two blocks) or greater would be appropriate. Finally, we asked respondents where they would like to see retail locations permitted, keeping in mind the county has a obligation to set areas where they can be located. Hamlet Commercial, Industrial and Commercial Developments were the top three areas that respondents chose as their preferred locations.

Location of Production Facilities

Production Facilities are where Cannabis is produced and sold, much like any other agricultural commodity. When asked if respondents were concerned about the location of production facilities, 58% of the population didn't have an opinion on the matter, or did not have a concern. When asked where production facilities should be allowed, 44% indicated that farms would be a good location, and another 27% indicated that industrial zones would be the most appropriate location.

Conclusion

When asked if Cannabis would have a positive impact on our economy, 50% of the respondents strongly or somewhat agreed.

When it comes to cannabis, municipalities have a very specific role in defining how cannabis shares our communities. We are responsible for determining the level of public consumption we'd allow in our communities and for setting out the locations and setback for where production and retail locations can go. In August, Council used this survey and feedback to draft both a Smoking Bylaw (restricting the consumption of tobacco and cannabis) and Land Use Bylaw Amendments to accommodate Cannabis stores and production facilities.

If you have any questions regarding the Cannabis Bylaws or this survey, please contact Shawna at sbenson@stettlercounty.ca or 403-742-4441 ext. 135.



WE NEED YOUR INPUT CANNABIS RELATED BYLAWS

Public Input Opportunity for Cannabis Related Bylaws

Council, at their regular meeting on August 8, 2018, gave first reading to both a Smoking Bylaw (which would affect both tobacco and cannabis smokers) and Land Use Bylaw amendments that pertained to the location and setbacks of Cannabis retail stores and production facilities.

A public hearing was set for September 12, 2018 at 1:00 pm, to hear public opinion on both of these bylaws. Here is what you need to know about both of these bylaws:

Bylaw 1598-18 – Smoking Bylaw

The bylaw provides for extensive smoking and vaping prohibition within the County of Stettler of both Tobacco and Cannabis. Under the bylaw, smoking or vaping (of any substance) is prohibited in public places (set out in provincial legislation), and extends to additional public places within the County of Stettler such as: outdoor events and markets operating under County approvals, school grounds, playgrounds, skateboard/bike parks, skating rinks/sports fields, outdoor recreation facilities, swimming pools/spray parks, theatres and patios.

The draft bylaws noted exceptions (which means smoking will be permitted unless a no smoking sign is present):

- off-leash dog parks
- golf courses
- public sidewalks
- hotel guest rooms that are already designated as smoking rooms.

In addition, the draft bylaw requires a 10 metre non-smoking setback from areas where children are more likely to congregate, such as playgrounds, spray parks, skate and bicycle parks, pools, skating rinks, sports fields. The 10 metre setback would also apply to doorways, windows and fresh air intake areas.

In comparison, the provincial Tobacco and Smoking Reduction Regulation currently only requires a five metre setback.

The fines for violations of this bylaw are as follows:

- \$250.00 for a first offence;
- \$500.00 for a second offence within one (1) year of the first offence; and
- \$750.00 for a third and any subsequent offence within one (1) year of a prior offence.

Bylaw 1597-18 – Amend the Land Use Bylaw to provide for Cannabis Retail Sales

Retail Store Locations

The proposed bylaw amendment provides for Cannabis Retail Sales only from commercial and industrial land use districts as follows:

- Commercial District (one property in the County)
- Hamlet Commercial District (several properties in the County)

Cannabis

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- Hamlet Industrial District (no properties in the County)
- Highway Commercial District (one property in the County)
- Highway Mixed Use District (several properties in the County)
- Industrial District (several properties in the County)

Within the above noted districts, Cannabis Retail Sales will be a discretionary use in all cases. The proposed bylaw amendment also provides for setbacks of 300 metres in all cases. Although this is not the intent with the proposed setback distances, the effect of this setback distance combined with the proximity of schools, recreation facilities, playgrounds, parks or community centres in the hamlets of the County due to their relatively small size, is that it is unlikely that a suitable site for a Cannabis Retail Sales could be found in one of the hamlets.

Production Facility Locations

The proposed bylaw amendment provides amendments to the definitions of “Manufacturing, Processing or Assembly Facility” and “Value Added Agricultural Industry” in order to specify that the production (growing or manufacturing) of cannabis is allowed in any land use district where “Manufacturing, Processing or Assembly Facility” and “Value Added Agricultural Industry” are listed as a discretionary use, but excluding the sale of cannabis from such a facility or industry.

Public Hearing Details

The bylaw and supporting documents may be reviewed at the County Administration Building located at 6602 – 44 Avenue, Stettler, Alberta during regular office hours, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, or online at www.stettlercounty.ca.

The Public Hearing to hear representation concerning these two Bylaws will be held on Wednesday, September 12, 2018 at 1:00 pm, at the County of Stettler Administration Building located at 6602 – 44 Avenue, Stettler, Alberta.

Any person wishing to comment on the bylaws may do so in writing to the Legislative Services Advisor, County of Stettler No. 6, Box 1270 Stettler, Alberta, T0C 2L0, or by email to sbenson@stettlercounty.ca prior to September 11, 2018, or make representation at the Public Hearing.

Following the Public Hearing, unless a petition of the electors is received as provided for in Section 223 or 231 of the Municipal Government Act, Council may proceed with second and third reading of the bylaw. Please note that a petition must follow the regulations set out on the Municipal Government Act. Copies of the relevant sections in the MGA and a guide to petitions is available at the County of Stettler Administration Building.

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Our Agricultural Services Department is encouraging Ag Plastic Recycling. Starting in the Spring of 2019, clean ag plastics can be recycled. We'll provide an operator and a roller, you supply the tractor and driver.

AG PLASTIC RECYCLING PROGRAM

To better the disposal of plastic grain bags, the Agricultural Services Board has created a grain bag rolling and recycling program. This program is anticipated to be up and running by March of 2019. Through the program, an agricultural services staff member is available to attend farms and fields to assist producers in the cleaning and rolling of grain bags.

At this time, the program is free of charge, however, the producer must help by ensuring the grain bags are clean for recycling. This program is being created in order to reduce the impact on our landfill, reduce the environmental impact of agricultural plastics, and eliminate the burning of agricultural plastics.

What do we require from producers?

The assistance of a tractor with hydraulics to run the roller, as well as an operator and sufficient

access to the bags. At this point, the program will provide one operator with the roller to attend the site.

What will the county do with the rolled bags?

Once we have collected a sufficient amount of bales, we will haul to a recycling plant in southern Alberta. This program will be partially funded through the payment received from the recycling facility.

For more information, contact the County of Stettler Agricultural Services Board at 403-742-4441.



DISCOVERY OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED WHEAT

Discovery of Genetically Modified Wheat in Southern Alberta

During the 2017 growing season a few wheat plants were found in Southern Alberta that survived spraying. They were found to be resistant to glyphosate (Roundup). After investigation to determine the extent of the GM wheat plants, no evidence was found that GM wheat was present anywhere other than the site where it was discovered. Health Canada and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) have concluded that this wheat has not entered the food or animal feed system nor is it present anywhere else in the environment. The wheat plants found were not a match for any wheat authorized for sale or for commercial production in Canada.

Through the investigative process it was determined that the GM wheat in question was a

Monsanto GM wheat line which was used in trials in the late 90s and the early 2000s. The nearest field trial was over 300 km away from the site where the wheat was found. This GM wheat has a unique DNA fingerprint that does not match any of the approximately 450 wheat varieties on file with the CFIA and the Canadian Grain Commission (CGC).

Because of the extensive testing by the CFIA, Japan and Korea who had temporarily suspended their purchasing of C Acadian wheat are both buying our wheat again.

For more information on this investigation go to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency web page at www.inspection.gc.ca.



WHAT CAUSES WASHBOARDING?

Washboarding: a wave-like pattern on unpaved roads

The cause of 'washboarding' is an unlikely source: your car's suspension. (Well, maybe not yours specifically, but it's not innocent in this matter, either.)

A vehicle's suspension system distributes the shock and energy of road irregularities with a bouncing rhythm. At each down stroke, the wheels exert extra force on the road, causing the particles in the road to either pack or displace at regular intervals. Once a pattern of ruts starts to establish itself, it becomes self-reinforcing.

The next car hits the same irregularities in the road and bounces at the same rate, causing the pattern to become more and more defined.

Wouldn't variations in speed affect the washboard pattern?

Sure, which brings us to another critical point: you, the driver.

Drive too fast on a washboard road and the down stroke exerted by the car wheels may meet the road at a point where a bump is ramping upwards. You know what that means - you bounce off the ceiling. Instinctively most drivers slow to a speed at which the down strokes coincide with the troughs between bumps, reinforcing the pattern.

Washboarding is inevitable in any unpaved road that sees fairly heavy traffic. Slowing down helps reduce the creation of washboard but will not entirely prevent it.

5th Annual Stettler Pheasant Festival

October 12-14

CONSERVATION
SATURDAY NIGHT BANQUET



PRIVATE HUNTS
COOKING CLASS



NEW THIS YEAR!

FRIDAY NIGHT SMOKER

GOLDEN PHEASANT

For more information call (403)742-3181

Register at www.stettlerpheasantfestival.com



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Watch our website for these upcoming Agricultural Services Department Workshops

October - Winter Feeding Clinic

January - Shelterbelt Tree Planting

March - Gardening 101

March - Pests and Disease

April - Weed School

CHANGES COMING DEC 1: PRESCRIBING & DISPENSING LIVESTOCK ANTIMICROBIALS

Changes in the laws around the prescribing and dispensing of livestock antimicrobials are coming into effect officially on December 1, 2018. Health Canada, the public health sector of the Canadian government, is responsible for these changes applying to doctors for both humans and animals. This approaching deadline is no doubt a source of much worry and concern for many of you as livestock producers, but it needn't be.

In the last number of years, change has been brewing and become inevitable for good reason. Common infections in cows like foot-rot, mastitis and abscesses have been treated with over the counter antibiotics like

penicillin and oxytetracycline by producers for years, often successfully. Over time however, organisms develop resistance to antimicrobials through exposure which results from any use of antimicrobials. Over time, this microbial resilience to treatment can lead to treatment failures in animals and people, and this must be avoided at all costs. Imagine a world in which the common cold could be fatal? The goal of these legal changes is to improve oversight of treatments by trained professionals to boost treatment effectiveness and reduce unnecessary use of these important medications.

The changes in the law are simple. All antimicrobials will need a prescription from

Stettler Veterinary Clinic

Information Evening

**Find out more about the changes coming for
prescribing and dispensing antimicrobials,
coming into effect December 1, 2018**

**Thursday, October 18 at 7:00 PM
@ Stettler Veterinary Clinic
4605- 51 Avenue**

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a licensed veterinarian, as well as any other prescription drugs, modified live vaccines, drugs used off-label and controlled drugs.

To be able to write this prescription and maintain veterinary licenses, veterinary clinics will need to establish a valid Veterinary Client Patient Relationship (VCPR), defined loosely as having visited your farm and discussing herd health annually. In some cases, clinics will need to see an animal in order to prescribe drugs, for example if there is a case that is a one-off like a uterine infection or wound infection.

Stores like UFA and Peavy Mart will no longer be able to sell antibiotics over the counter. Purchasing of antibiotics will only be possible

from licensed distributors like veterinary clinics and feed mills, needing a prescription from a veterinary clinic for any purchase of these drugs.

These changes are not to be feared and aim to improve the health and profitability of your system.

To find out more information, visit the Health Canada website. The Stettler Veterinary Clinic is also running an information evening on October 18, 2018 at 7:00 pm where we will discuss these legal changes, along with examples of VCPR validity, when prescriptions will be needed and how it will affect you as a producer.

SNOWPLOWING - SIGN UP EARLY TO AVOID DELAYS

In central Alberta we can't escape the snow, or the fact that roads are going to be bad during and after a winter storm – but we always try to minimize the length of time our roads are in poor shape.

The County provides laneway snow removal free of charge on private property that provides access to permanent residence, only if the laneway is suitable for snowplowing. The County does not provide snowplowing services for driveways on private property situated in Hamlets or multi-lot subdivisions.

The deadline to sign up is Thanksgiving, but try to get in here well before that. If you feel that's too early, may we remind you of the October snowstorm of 2017. As our operators get busy plowing snow and maintaining winter roads, the wait for you to get an inspection and a flag grows longer.

The management of snow plowing and road conditions falls on the shoulders of our Chief

Administrative Officer and Directors, and is guided by policy set by our County Council. County Council often discusses, debates and revisits the 'level of service' deemed appropriate, while maintaining financial responsibility to our ratepayers. In the County of Stettler, we have 2811 km of roads (1750 miles). We look after rural roads, **not highways**. Highways (#11, #12, #56 and secondary highways #835 and #601 for example) are serviced by Alberta Transportation.

The removal of snow from gravel surfaces and laneways, according to current policy, occurs when accumulation of snow reaches 15 centimeters (just shy of 6 inches) or more.

Order of priority for snow plowing is: Airport first, this is cleared by one of our three plow trucks. Other hard surface roads including hamlets, subdivisions and main access roadways to subdivisions are also supported by our plow trucks. Graders plow our gravel roads and start in alternating locations plowing in a grid pattern of east and south, or west



and north. Winging snow back from the shoulders has second priority. Snowplowing is undertaken in a manner that minimizes backtracking and excessive road travel.

Laneways are often plowed in conjunction with gravel roads. However when we are unable to keep up with County road plowing, then laneways are cleared at a later date.

Laneways are only plowed after an application is made at the County of Stettler by signing a 'Hold Harmless' agreement. This must be completed each year. The laneway then must be inspected for safety by the County and deemed 'accessible for snowplowing' EACH YEAR.

A 'Flag' is issued and displayed at the bottom of approved laneways once all of these steps have been completed. For insurance purposes, this entire process must be repeated each year, with a new flag being issued to indicate you have done so. Don't wait until the first snowfall to come in.

Once the snow starts to fly, our operators are busy plowing and will not be stopping service to come and make laneway inspections. Inspections are ongoing, come in now and get your paperwork completed.

As always, we must mention the ever-present concern with laneway plowing is the safety of children/pedestrians. Operators are often plowing our laneways in less than ideal conditions and in the dark. Please educate children and visitors. It is very hard to see children, or they pop out of a pile of snow they are playing in, that the grader may be heading for. Please keep a close watch and remind everyone to stay safe this winter.



FARM FIRE SAFETY

Fire is a part of life on the land. While it can be a useful tool on farms, fire can also be dangerous, destroying homes, shops, sheds, machinery, equipment, livestock, crops and livelihoods. Years of hard work & investment can be wiped out in a moment.

In the County of Stettler, most grass fires are caused by machinery, burn barrels and brush piles.

Fires do not always happen at your neighbors place. Be mentally and operationally prepared to deal with a fire at your farm.

Stay safe!

Question to Consider

- Is there a fire extinguisher, installed in your house, shed, workshop and farm vehicles?
- Are your family and staff trained in the use of fire extinguishers?
- When was your fire extinguisher last checked, serviced or hydrostatically tested?
- Are grasses near structures kept short?
- Is harvest equipment maintained so as not to start a fire in dry conditions?
- Am I prepared to control a grass/crop fire?





TAKE IT OFF ICE HUT REGISTRATION

The County of Stettler has collaborated with Lacombe County to bring “Take it Off” program to Buffalo Lake. This will be its second year of this program on Buffalo Lake.

This program will assist with the protection of the environment and ensure safety, and we are requesting all anglers register new or previously unregistered ice-fishing huts.

Ice hut registration is easy and free of charge so please fill out your contact and fish hut information.

Ice hut registration numbers should be clearly displayed on the outside your hut(s). Registration numbers should be placed on wood blocks or should be spray painted on the side of fishing huts. We also ask ice hut owners keep the area around their huts clear of garbage.

Registration is required to identify the owner of an ice hut in the event of a problem or if the ice hut

is not safely removed from the ice by the end of the season. In the event of an early thaw or the development of unusual conditions, registration enables us to contact fish hut owners.


For the safety of the anglers, we ask that all shacks be removed on or before March 15, or earlier if conditions warrant.

Please ensure you check ice thickness on a regular basis. In the spring of 2018 County staff along with some local outdoor enthusiasts risked their lives to remove a shack that was left out on the ice of Buffalo Lake far too late in the season. We are encouraging all to register to stop this from happening in the future by registering their huts.

The link to register your ice fishing shack is at: www.stettlercounty.ca and click on ‘Agriculture’ and then click on ‘Take it Off: Ice Hut Registration for Buffalo Lake’.

PAYING YOUR UTILITIES ONLINE

Payee: County of Stettler Utilities
Account #: Stated at the top of your invoice YOU MUST INCLUDE ALL NUMBERS, BUT DO NOT INCLUDE THE DECIMAL POINT (e.g. account # 560100.00 would be entered 56010000)

	County of Stettler PO Box 1270 6602 44 Avenue Stettler, AB T0C 2L0 Canada Phone: (403) 742 4441	UTILITY INVOICE PAYEE → County of Stettler Utilities
	Statement Date: February 9, 2016 Billing Period: January 1, 2016 - January 31, 2016 Your account number 515090.00 ← Account # For service at: 524178	Enter your entire number WITHOUT the decimal (e.g. this account # would be entered as 51509000).

ONLINE BANKING PRE-AUTHORIZED PAYMENT

PRE-AUTHORIZED PAYMENT - DIRECT DEBIT

The County of Stettler is now accepting pre-authorized payments for utility accounts. This will be a payment we process and is taken directly from your bank account. The amount of your utility invoice will be the amount debited from your bank. The form on page 21 needs to be filled out, signed and returned with a void cheque.

Also it is mandatory that anyone signing up for this service goes onto e-mail delivery for their utility bills. Should you have any more questions, please don't hesitate to contact the County of Stettler at 403-742-4441 x111.

ONLINE BANKING PAYMENTS

Online/telebanking payments have changed recently. Now at every bank there is a payee for both County of Stettler Tax account and a County of Stettler Utility/AR account.

We ask you to verify that your payee's are set up correctly as payments may go to your tax account if not done accordingly. Even if your payments have been correct please verify with your online banking as we have manually corrected payments under the wrong payee and may not be correcting these in the future. If your utility invoice goes unpaid for 90 days it will be transferred to your taxes.



BACK TO SCHOOL SAFETY

Back to School Safety

Reminder for drivers that beginning September 2018 school zones will be back in effect on school days. On any day on which school is held, the maximum rate of speed for which a driver may operate a motor vehicle within all school zones shall be 30 kilometers per hour at any time between:

8:00 a.m. and 9:30 a.m.
11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.
3:00 p.m. and 4:30 p.m.

The exception for these times is in the Hamlet of Botha. The school zone in Botha is in effect from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on all school days.

Why 30 km/h?

The lower speed limit protects our most vulnerable road users: CHILDREN.

It takes an average vehicle traveling at 30 km/h approximately 11m-13m to stop in dry conditions.

It takes an average vehicle traveling at 50 km/h 24m-28m to stop in dry conditions.

School Bus Safety

- Alternating flashing yellow or amber lights mean a bus is slowing down to stop. Ensure you do the same.
- When approaching a school bus with red lights activated you must stop! The fine for passing a school bus with its red lights flashing is \$543 and six demerit points.
- Always watch for children crossing roads. Slow down and prepare to stop.

The County of Stettler No. 6 Protective Services will be frequently patrolling in school zones ensuring the safety of children in our community.

Please help keep our children safe and obey all speed limits. If you have any questions or any concerns please contact the Protective Services Department at (403) 741-6133.



PARADISE SHORES

The Subdivision Development Appeal Board (SDAB) received nine appeals regarding Paradise Shores Development Permit 18001.

On Thursday, August 16, the SDAB assembled for the first day of the this hearing. The SDAB granted all parties an additional two weeks to review material and submit anything further based on their reviews, by August 31.

All parties will then receive 10 more days to review any new information that is presented by Aug. 31, and they may respond/submit to the new information by September 10. The topics the SDAB will hear in regards to the appeal are on our website at www.stettlercounty.ca.

The SDAB scheduled two more days for the hearing, September 18 and 19, where appellants, the Development Authority, and the applicant (developer) will be heard. These hearing are open to the public.

Follow our website at www.stettlercounty.ca for updated information regarding this appeal, and for the location and time of the subsequent hearing days scheduled.

DEVELOPMENT SETBACKS

Please remember that you do not need a development permit from the County for any agricultural operation as long as any structures such as hay sheds, granaries, dugouts, livestock shelters and barns meet the 125 feet setback from the center line of the County road.

Shelterbelts must be set back 75 feet from the center line of the road. If you wished to vary from these setbacks for any agricultural operation, you would require a development permit.

You may need a license/permit from the Natural Resources Conservation Board if your agricultural operation includes a confined feeding operation (please call the NRCB at 1-340-5241).

If development is proposed along a provincial highway a Roadside Development Permit issued by Alberta Transportation is required. Please contact Alberta Transportation at 403-854-5550 or visit their website at <http://www.transportation.alberta.ca>.

For more information regarding development please contact the County's Planning & Development Department at 403-742-4441.

WHY SHOULD I SHOCK MY WELL?

The shocking (disinfection) of a well and plumbing system destroys any possibility of bacterial contamination to be present in the system. This process will only kill bacteria present in the system at the time of disinfection and is not designed for an ongoing contamination problem.

Do I need to have someone shock my well or can I do it?

Your local water well drilling company can shock your well for you. However, the directions for this process are here, should you choose to do it yourself.

How do I shock my well?

There are books available both online at: [http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\\$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/wwg404](http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/wwg404) as well, you can visit either the AG INFO CENTRE or the Agricultural Services Board for a copy of the Water Well book that gives you step by step instructions on what to do.

CAUTION!

One should always use caution when working with chlorine products. ALWAYS follow the manufacturer's safety directions. It is recommended that rubber gloves, protective clothing and safety goggles be worn. Wash immediately if you come into contact with chlorine. Electrical hazards also exist; it is recommended that the power to the well be turned off prior to any work being performed.

Shock Chlorination

Shock chlorination is a relatively inexpensive and straightforward procedure used to control bacteria in water wells. Many types of bacteria can contaminate wells, but the most common are iron-related (IRB) and sulfate-reducing bacteria (SRB). Although not a cause of health problems in humans, these nuisance bacteria may coat the inside of the well casing, water piping and pumping equipment, creating problems such as:

- Reduced well yield
- Restricted water flow in distribution lines
- Staining of plumbing fixtures and laundry
- Plugging of water treatment equipment
- "Rotten egg" odor.
- Increased corrosion of the metal parts of the well and distribution system

Wells can also be contaminated with harmful bacteria such as fecal coliforms or E. coli. Shock chlorination is the most effective method to eliminate them. Bacteria may be introduced during drilling of a well or when pumps are removed for repair and laid on the ground. However, IRBs and SRBs (as well as other bacteria) can exist naturally in groundwater.

A well creates a direct path for oxygen to travel



into the ground where it would not normally exist accelerating the growth of bacteria that require oxygen. When a well is pumped, the water flowing in will also bring in nutrients that enhance bacterial growth.

Signs of Nuisance Bacteria

There are a number of signs that indicate the presence of iron-related, sulfate-reducing and other slime-producing bacteria. They include:

Slime growth; Rotten egg odor; Increased staining.

Slime Growth

The easiest way to check a well and water system for nuisance bacteria is to examine the inside surface of the toilet flush tank. If you feel a greasy slime or growth, these are probably present.

Rotten Egg Odor

Sulfate-reducing bacteria can cause a rotten egg odor in water. Iron-related bacteria aggravate the problem by creating an environment that encourages the growth of SRBs in the well. SRBs prefer to live underneath the slime layer that the IRBs form because they thrive in low oxygen environments. SRBs produce hydrogen sulfide gas as a by-product, resulting in a “rotten egg” or sulfur odor in the water and may produce small amounts of acid that can corrode the well casing and pumping equipment.

Increased Staining Problems

Iron-related bacteria can concentrate iron in water sources with low iron content. It can create a staining problem where one never existed before or make an iron staining problem worse as time goes by.

Use the following checklist to determine if you have an iron-related or sulfate-reducing bacteria problem. The first three are very specific problems related to these bacteria. The last two problems can be signs of other problems as well.

Checklist to Determine an Iron or Sulfate-Reducing Bacteria Problem

- Greasy slime on inside surface of toilet flush tank
- Increased red staining of plumbing fixtures and laundry
- Sulfur odor
- Reduced well yield
- Restricted water flow

Shock Chlorination Method

Shock chlorination is used to control iron-related and sulfate-reducing bacteria and to eliminate faecal coliform or E. coli bacteria in a water system. To be effective, shock chlorination should be done continued...



WHY SHOULD I SHOCK MY WELL...CONTINUED

on a regular basis at least once or twice per year as part of a routine well maintenance program. Start the treatments early in the life of your well. Shock chlorination will disinfect the following:

- The entire well depth
- The formation around the bottom of the well
- The pressure system
- Some water treatment equipment
- The distribution system.

To accomplish this, a large volume of chlorinated water is siphoned down the well to displace all the water in the well and some of the water in the formation surrounding the well.

Before you shock chlorinate, consult your water treatment equipment supplier to ensure the appropriate steps are taken to protect your treatment equipment.

Effectiveness of shock chlorination

With shock chlorination, the entire system (from the water-bearing formation, through the well-bore and the distribution system) is exposed to

water which has a concentration of chlorine strong enough to kill iron-related and sulfate reducing bacteria.

Bacteria collect in the pore spaces of the formation and on the casing or screened surface of the well. To be effective, you need to calculate the correct volumes of chlorine and water required to reach and disinfect the entire cased section of the well and adjacent water-bearing formation.

To control the iron-related bacteria, you will have to repeat the treatment on a regular basis, likely each spring and fall as a regular maintenance procedure. If your well has never been shock chlorinated or has not been done for some time, it may be necessary to contact a licensed water well contractor about other products and methods for control of bacteria.

Be aware that chlorinating old, unmaintained wells may uncover existing holes in steel casing and speed up inevitable well failure.

Contact the Agricultural Services Board or your local water well drilling company for more information.



TEMPORARY SUPPORTIVE ACCOMMODATION

County of Stettler Housing Authority: *Seniors and Community Housing*
403-740-9224

Heart Haven Lodge -
www.stettlerhousing.com

Did you know, Stettler Housing Authority offers temporary supportive housing at Heart Haven Lodge for adults 18 and over?

Caregiver Relief for vacations, hospital stays or just 'a break' for the caregiver.

Temporary Assistance following a hospital stay or medical procedure.

Included in the stay:

- Private, Furnished Room
- Meals and Snacks
- Weekly Housekeeping
- 24-Hour Security and non-medical emergency assistance.

Available (if required):

Scheduled Home Care assistance with:

- Medications
- Bathing
- Meal assists

Prior arrangements must be in place for this service. Call Home Care at 403-742-4461 to schedule Home Care).

Cost:

\$60.00 per day + GST

\$50.00 per day + GST for individuals qualifying for a subsidy (Income Tax Return required).

Prices subject to change, please call Elaine at 403-742-6195 for availability and more information.

Save a Tree

Sign up for e-versions of County Connection magazine by contacting nthorsteinsson@stettlercounty.ca or by calling 403-742-4441.

It's also available on our website at www.stettlercounty.ca.



Tape 'Button Batteries' as shown above.

RECYCLING

Battery Recycling & Taping

We now recycle about 3,800 household batteries per month.

Collection sites are at:

- Stettler Eco Centre (Stettler Transfer Station)
- all County of Stettler Transfer Sites
- Sobey's
- Sean's no Frill's

The taping of lithium and button batteries is required.

Taping of all other batteries is recommended for safe transport.



Tape positive end only, leaving battery chemistry visible (lithium, alkaline etc.)

COMMUNITY EVENTS

*Stettler Crisis Aid Program
Presents a...*

**DINNER Theatre
& Dance**

*Featuring Wendy Froberg's one
women play*

"A Woman of a Certain Age"

A comedic journey of life including commentary on relatable life issues.

Date: Saturday September 8th, 2018

Time: - Cocktails at 5pm
- Dinner served at 6pm
- Play starts at 8pm
- Dance to Follow

Seating is First Come First Serve
Location: Stettler Community Hall
Tickets: \$30.00

Tickets sold at Stettler & District FCSS, Consignment Closet, The Shoe Closet & Boutique and Fashion Warehouse

This fundraiser is in support of the Crisis Aid Program.
For more information please contact Stettler & District FCSS at 403-742-2337.



Stettler History Book

The Stettler History Book Committee is inviting submissions for individuals or families who have lived in Stettler in the past or are currently living in Stettler. They are also including Buffalo Lake residents or others in the County of Stettler who do not have biographies in other local history books.

Please pass this information along to friends and family who have been an important part of the history of Stettler. Perhaps you could copy and share a hard copy with the seniors.

Submissions can be made to stettlerhistorybook@gmail.com or visit Facebook: Stettler History Book site; send by mail to Box 1437, Stettler, AB T0C 2L0; or phone Tammy Menard 403-742-0584 or Stan Eichorn at 403-742-4703.



Farmer's Market

Every Tuesday beginning through October 2
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Stettler Agriplex

COMMUNITY EVENTS

County of Stettler Budget 2019-2021

Thank you to everyone who attended our Spring Open House tour and filled out our budget survey either there, or online.

We are currently summarizing the feedback received in those survey and that information will be provided to Council as they begin budget deliberations in September and October. A Public Budget Presentation will be advertised for this November or December. Everyone welcome.



8th Annual Willy Bronze Poker Rally

September 29 to 30, 2018

Enjoy the fall beauty of the scenic Donalda Badlands and Meeting Creek Valley

Registration: 10 AM - Noon at the Donalda Equestrian Centre

Cost: \$10/hand or 3 hands for \$20

Saturday End of Trail Meal: 4 PM - 6 PM, \$10/plate

BBQ Beef on a bun, pumpkin pie and beverage

Camping and/or stalls available. Call 403-741-8196 to reserve

For more information please call:

For trail information call Becky at 403-740-5997 or

for camping information call Beth at 403-741-8196



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