

# Stettler County Connection

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ASSESSMENT NOTICES

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CITIZEN SURVEY

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**G3**

Making its Mark

in **Stettler**

**County**

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# PROPERTY ASSESSMENT/ TAX NOTICES MAILED

**2019 notices have been mailed.**

Notice is hereby given that the Combined Property Assessment and Tax Notices for County of Stettler ratepayers have been prepared and mailed to all property owners. The assessment roll is open for inspection at the County Office during regular hours of business. (Monday-Friday 8:30 am – 4:30 pm).

If you have not received your Notice by July 15 please contact the County of Stettler at 403-742-4441.

An assessed person wishing to make a complaint must do so in accordance to the Municipal Government Act. The complaint must be in

writing and submitted on the prescribed forms at the County Administration building.

Complaints will be accepted until August 27, 2019 at 4:30 p.m. and must be accompanied by a fee of \$50.00 (Residential and Farmland) or \$100.00 (Non-Residential).

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

Tax Payments can be made by CASH, CHEQUE, INTERAC, and online, or at most Financial Institutions. For more information please contact our office.



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# COUNTY CONNECTION

## INTRO

“Productivity is never an accident. It is always the result of a commitment to excellence, intelligent planning, and a focused effort.”  
-Paul J. Meyer

County crews are out in full force trying to squeeze every last ounce of manpower out of a full summer staff, with a very short window to get all of our outdoor priorities completed. Mowing crews are hustling to keep up with a crazy growth which we haven't experienced in quite some time. But no one around here is complaining.

So many things on the go and deadlines to meet. We are starting to plan our 2020 budget and beyond. In order to do so, Council is beginning the process of Strategic Planning. The wheels never stop turning.

The Strategic Plan, while often overlooked by our citizens, is the document the 'drives' us. Council very carefully considers the needs and wants of County and our citizens, and weighs them against our budget. They consult, they confer, they argue, they consider and then they reconsider. And at the end of a few months, they introduce a document called our Strategic Plan. This is the map County of Stettler staff use to operate from day-to-day. It is essentially our very large 'to do' list. Please take a minute to complete our Budget Survey located on our website until September 1. This survey will inform your Council what your priorities are. Council will then be able to consider your input, as they consider their Strategic Plan which affects our budget. This is one of the most important processes we go through from year to year. Don't overlook it!

Niki Thorsteinsson  
Director of Communications



## Stettler County Connection

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Mayor Nolls and Reeve Clarke proclaiming July 21-27, 2019 National Drowning Prevention Week. Over 500 people die every year from drowning.

## REEVE'S RAMBLINGS

As summer 2019 embraces us I look out and see the trees in full leaf and bloom and green grass. Most producers are finishing seeding feed, spraying pesky weeds or beetles or having animals on summer pastures. Our highways are becoming busy with RV's, convertibles and motor cycles trying to catch a piece of our beautiful prairie summer.

With this spring comes a new provincial party running our province and we will be working with them along with the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) to ensure we are receiving our share of grants and provincial funding. We will continue to advocate so our government recognizes the continual decline in taxes to municipalities as oil and gas companies continue to challenge these expenses and/or go into bankruptcy (such as Trident Exploration) leaving us with a \$4 million outstanding tax bill for 2018 and 2019 calendar years. We as a County will be seeking compensation as this is worked through the courts.

We are pleased to have a state of the art grain handling facility being constructed south west of Erskine by G-3 Canada. This facility will be a great asset to central Alberta grain farmers and to the area with construction jobs and full time positions in our area when complete. G-3 has been a very cooperative developer and I look forward to the ongoing working relationship as they work through construction to full time operational status. The County of Stettler Planning and Development team and administration continue to offer a great service with this and all other developments in our county.

The County of Stettler has joined with Clearview

School Board and the Town of Stettler to resurface the running track at the Stettler school grounds. This track was constructed for the 1991 summer games and has served the school and community for 28 years and will continue to be an asset for another 30+ years with this resurfacing project. Fundraising drives will be in place for lane sponsorship and donations to a family/community donor board so as a community we can achieve this.

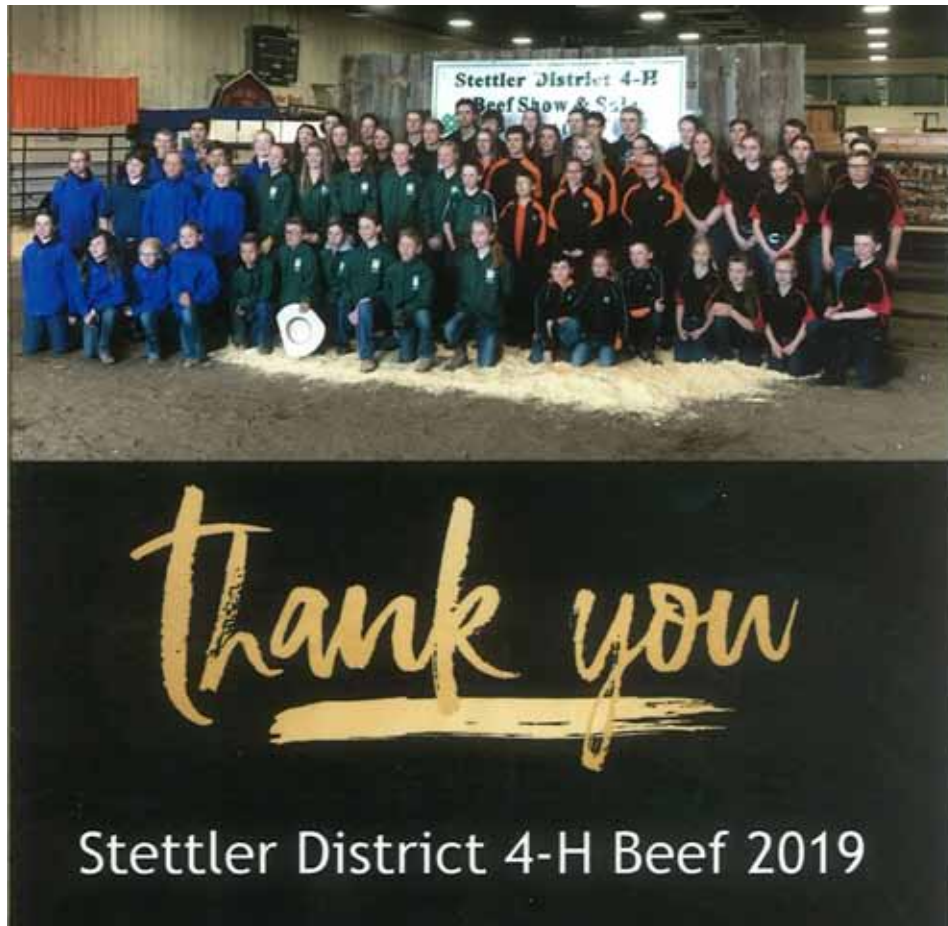
Municipal Affairs along with the County of Stettler and the Village of Gadsby have been working on a viability study looking at the future of Gadsby - the smallest village in our County. The County of Stettler has been contracted until the end of 2019 to provide a CAO and Administration services to the village while studies and meetings are being completed. If village residents have questions or concerns they can call the County office.

Our Peace Officers have been operating in a very collaborative approach with our RCMP and the provincial officers with the vehicle inspection blitz's held throughout our area. They are actively working with the Town of Stettler and our villages on disaster services planning and protection.

With summer and all wanting to enjoy the sun and heat please be careful in your travels as it is also a very short window for public works, industry and agriculture producers to get a lot of their work completed. Please be patient and give people the room they need to work.

In closing travel safe and enjoy our beautiful central Albert summer.

# 4



Councillor Les Stulberg congratulating all of the Intermediate Award of Excellence Nominees (L-R): Zach Schilling, Byemoor Club; Colby Norman, Big Knife Club; Peyton Lyke, Big Valley Club and Hannah Van Straten, Erskine Club who was chosen as the inter-club winner.



Mayor Nolls, Reeve Clarke and the Honourable Nate Horner attending the launch of Alberta's One Line.

# I BELIEVE YOU 'ONE LINE' LAUNCHED

## Alberta One Line: 1-866-403-8000

On May 6, Reeve Larry Clarke for the County of Stettler joined Mayor Sean Nolls from the Town of Stettler, and MLA for Drumheller-Stettler Nate Horner for the exciting launch of a new provincial phone/text/chat service: Alberta's One Line for Sexual Violence.

Funded by the Government of Alberta, this support service is sexual assault specialized, confidential and accessible to individuals in ALL Alberta communities. Dramatically increased demand for sexual assault service in Alberta led to this new service aimed at better connecting survivors to local specialized services.

The talk/text/chat line provides confidential support and information to survivors of sexual

violence. One Line is staffed from 9:00 am to 9 pm seven days a week by trained, specialized responders. It is hoped One Line will also help increase access for people in rural communities where services aren't as readily available. Statistics show only five to six per cent of sexual assault cases are ever reported to police.

One Line, which is a partnership with the Alberta Government, can be reached at 1-866-403-8000.

Service through One Line is available in more than 200 languages.

Anyone wishing to access services locally can contact the Association of Communities Against Abuse (ACAA) at 403-742-3558, email [acaa@telusplanet.net](mailto:acaa@telusplanet.net) or visit their website at [www.againstabuse.ca](http://www.againstabuse.ca).



Budget Survey - Help us know what our citizens priorities are. Fill out our budget survey at [www.StettlerCounty.ca](http://www.StettlerCounty.ca). The results will be presented to Council as they begin to consider the County's 2020 Strategic Priorities which will help them determine the 2020 budget. You have until September 1, 2019 to complete our survey and provide your input. If you do not have access to complete an online survey - please contact our office at 403-742-4441 and we will be happy to assist you over the phone.

## 2020 BUDGET PROCESS

Changes to the Municipal Government Act (MGA) have us undertaking a 3 year operating budget and a 5 year capital budget.

Over the past number of years the County has been planning budgets on a three year cycle for operating and capital. There was no requirement to do this, but we felt this allowed Council the ability to make a more informed decision when they could see what other projects or capital would be coming up. It allowed us to be better planners for upcoming events and allowed us to watch our cash flow.

Under the updated MGA it is now a requirement to do a three year operating budget and a five year capital budget. Because of the rules around this, the County will now be doing a four year operational budget and six year capital budget. The interesting part of doing the multi-year budgeting is that the budgets do not need to be balanced for the future years. Only the current year is required to be balanced. The additional years of budget estimated are mandated to supply exactly what our County was already doing – allowing Council to make more informed decisions and plan for the future.

### July and August

The County will again be engaging the public for their input, in the form of a survey. Please

complete our survey at [www.StettlerCounty.ca](http://www.StettlerCounty.ca) so we may provide your input to Council for their consideration as they set Strategic Priorities and Budget Priorities for 2020 and beyond.

County departments are preparing initial budget estimates.

### September

Finance and the Chief Administrative Officer will consolidate public information and department estimates in order to present a draft budget to Council.

Council will begin their 2020 Strategic Plan.

### October

Council begins budget planning meetings and workshops.

### November

The draft budget will be presented to Council and the Public.

### December

Final Budget will be presented to Council. Council will consider adopting the budget.



# SDAB UPHOLDS STETTLER COUNTY'S POSITION

Subdivision & Development Appeal Board determines the developer's application was incomplete.

A Subdivision & Development Appeal Board (SDAB) issued a decision on June 11, upholding the County of Stettler's Development Authority decision that a development permit application submitted March 28, 2019 by 2066052 Alberta Ltd. for Recreational Facility – Outdoor, with 318 campsites or RV stalls as necessary to support the primary use of the property (Recreation Facility – Outdoor), was incomplete.

The development permit application was for the lands located at NE 20-40-20 W4M, the lands at Paradise Shores RV Resort.

You can read the SDAB's Notice of Decision on our website at [www.stettlercounty.ca](http://www.stettlercounty.ca).



## G3 MAKING ITS MARK IN STETTLER COUNTY

A new grain elevator is coming to Stettler County.

Following public consultations, G3 announced plans earlier this year for the high-efficiency facility west of Erskine, on the south side of Highway 12. Construction is just getting underway and is expected to be complete in 2020.

G3 Stettler County will be part of a growing network of high-efficiency G3 facilities that is changing the way grain moves across Western Canada. The modern technology includes high-capacity drags under the driveshed that can empty a Super B truck in less than five minutes.

The railway loop track can hold a 150-car unit train and load it in 10 – 12 hours – keeping the grain moving to market and creating more delivery opportunities for area producers.

G3 has four similar elevators under construction or planned in Alberta, including Wetaskiwin (due to open later this year) Morinville, Carmangay and Irricana (also to open in 2020).

A new elevator in Maidstone, SK is opening this summer. There are six additional high-efficiency G3 elevators across Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

The fast-moving pipeline of Prairie grain will get to market through another brand-new facility on the West Coast. G3 Terminal Vancouver is under construction and also due to open in 2020. The next-generation grain export terminal will accommodate three full unit trains, unload them all in 24 hours and send them back to the Prairies for another load.

When G3 Stettler County is complete and in operation, it will employ 12-14 full time staff including Farm Business Representatives and Operations staff.

G3 enjoys being part of the communities it serves and is looking forward to earning the business of farmers in Stettler County and being part of this community as well.

# 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 foot 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.

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# ZERO TOLERANCE

Please contact our Planning and Development Department when you start planning your development in order to ensure you obtain the required development permit and other approvals in good time. Anyone who intends to undertake a non-agricultural development in the County of Stettler No. 6 is required to first obtain a development permit from the County. This could also help you avoid any unforeseen expenses 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 you may make the necessary adjustments before you start digging or laying down concrete.

The County does not want to penalize anyone. Rather, we want to work with ratepayers to ensure the proper development approvals are issued in order to comply with Municipal, Provincial and Federal regulations. The County's Fee Bylaw states a penalty of \$1,000 for residential developments and \$2,000 for commercial developments that are started without the benefit of a development permit.

The County of Stettler No. 6 has adopted a zero tolerance approach to persons who start construction without the benefit of a development permit. All relevant penalties required pursuant to the County's Fee Schedule and other actions under the Municipal Government Act (MGA) for such a contravention will be strictly imposed on anyone who fails to obtain a development permit prior to construction start. This information has been made widely available and no exceptions will be made.

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# STETTTLER

Antique Tractor Club

## Antique Tractor Pull

July 27 at 11 am

Weigh in at 9 am

Stetter Agriculture Grounds



**FREE** to watch or participate  
**Special thanks to our sponsors!!**

More information contact Dan 403-740-3726



# LEAKS DON'T MAKE CENTS WATCH YOUR METER

**Environmental Services utilizes new handheld meter reader to realize efficiencies.**

Going into summer after the very cold winter we experienced, we would like to remind everyone who is connected to County or Shirley McClellan water lines to be aware of a higher possibility of leaks occurring in their water lines.

Monitor your taps and toilets. Look at your water meter while everything is off and check if there's any flow going through. If you can hear water running, you may have a leak.

We now have a new handheld meter reader which provides us with a lot of data on leaks and the time they occur.

Our new meter readers can also tell us if a backflow occurrence has happened. A backflow can contaminate your system.

The handheld (MX900) enables us to log data for each residence. This system streamlines our utility operations giving us more pertinent

information in a very timely fashion enabling efficiency in servicing and reading meters.

The new system and information will allow us to detect deficiencies with greater efficiency.

It also allows us to data log your low and high flows of water, if you are wondering when and where all your water is being used.

This system has been adopted within the last month and we are very satisfied with the information and ease of access to data that is being provided to us now.

We can now see 90 days worth of usage, and can download that information to identify leaks or spikes enabling us to better answer questions in the event a water bill has elevated.

If you have questions about your water bill, please contact our Environmental Services Department at 403-742-4441.



## VEHICLE SAFETY SECURE YOUR LOAD

### If you flipped your vehicle, would everything remain tightly secured?

Throughout June, Stettler County Peace Officers focused on commercial vehicle as well as passenger vehicle safety as part of the Alberta Traffic Safety plan.

As part of that plan from June 4 - June 6, 2019 Stettler County Protective Services participated in a joint force operation spearheaded by Stettler's Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Branch. The operation consisted of multiple agencies including (but not limited to) Stettler RCMP, Alberta Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Branch, Stettler County Protective Services, Lacombe County Enforcement Services, and Alberta Dangerous Goods. Many others participated in the multi day enforcement check targeting Commercial Vehicle Safety.

Stettler County Peace Officers inspected a total of 22 vehicles over the course of the three-day operation, and of those inspected more than half were placed out of service for a variety of reasons.

The most common out of service violation found was 'cargo securement', with the second most common being parking brakes.

Stettler County would like to remind residents and businesses that tarp straps (bungee straps) are not a proper means of securement, even if they have a load rating on the strap. The strap can not be made tight enough to ensure no wiggle or "play" in the strap and is the most frequent issue encountered.

A good rule of thumb to follow is if the vehicle were to be flipped upside down, everything should remain tightly secured to the vehicle or trailer. Ratchet Straps, friction straps, or chains with a load limit on them are the preferred method of proper securement.

Stettler County would also like to remind businesses that even pickup trucks need to have a functioning parking brake, otherwise the vehicle can be placed out of service until repaired.

# BIG VALLEY BUSTOUT RODEO

## JULY 26<sup>TH</sup> - 27<sup>TH</sup>

**IN MEMORY OF  
LYLE CASSIDY**

**CATCH ALL THE  
RODEO ACTION  
7PM DAILY**



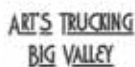
**Admission: \$10/day  
Pancake Breakfast  
Saturday 8-11am**

**Big Valley  
Fire Department  
Saturday Steak BBQ  
5 pm at the Agriplex**

**Local Entries  
July 17<sup>th</sup> 12-3  
Call 403.739.2988**

**BEER GARDENS**

**For more information contact  
Tom Cassidy @ 403.740.3488**





# STETTLER REGIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

## County of Stettler Citizen Survey

During an Emergency situation it may assist Stettler Regional Emergency Management Agency and Emergency first responders to have the following information available to them.

All Stettler County landowners will have received this survey with their tax/assessment notices. Stettler Regional Emergency Management Agency (SREMA) is collecting this information which may assist first responders in the event of a large scale emergency or disaster within the borders of the County of Stettler No. 6.

Please note, this information is being requested from all County of Stettler residents, and is

collected for Stettler Regional Emergency Management's sole use.

The information you provide is done so on a voluntary basis. Please go to our website and click on the link to complete this short survey online. We would request you fill it in online if you are able, reducing the staff time required to re-enter information. If it is not possible for you to complete the survey online, please tear out the page and bring it or send it back to us.

Go to [www.StettlerCounty.ca](http://www.StettlerCounty.ca) and under 'NEWS' click on 'Stettler Regional Emergency Management Agency collects Stettler County citizen information'.



**It would assist Stettler Regional Emergency Management Agency greatly, if you would fill this form out ONLINE at [www.StettlerCounty.ca](http://www.StettlerCounty.ca) providing them with an electronic copy of your information. If you are unable to do so, please complete and return this paper copy to:**

**Stettler Regional Emergency Management Agency  
Box 1270, 6602-44 Avenue, Stettler, Alberta T0C 2L0**

During an Emergency situation it may assist Emergency First Responders to have the following information available to them. Please note, this information is being requested from all County of Stettler residences, and is collected for Stettler Regional Emergency Management's sole use. The information you provide is done so on a voluntary basis.

Family Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Blue Sign: \_\_\_\_\_ Legal Land Description: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**People Living at your Residence:**

Number of Adults: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Children: \_\_\_\_\_

School Contact Information: \_\_\_\_\_

**People Living at your Residence with Special Health Needs/Handicaps:**

Person 1: Type of Health Need/Handicap: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Affected Individual: \_\_\_\_\_

Health information: \_\_\_\_\_

Medication and medical equipment: \_\_\_\_\_

Grab-and-go bag location: \_\_\_\_\_

Person 2: Type of Health Need/Handicap: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Affected Individual: \_\_\_\_\_

Health information: \_\_\_\_\_

Medication and medical equipment: \_\_\_\_\_

Grab-and-go bag location: \_\_\_\_\_

Use additional pages if you require more space.

Continued...

Arrange for each family member to call, e-mail or text the same out-of-town contact person in case of an emergency. Choose an out-of-town contact who lives far enough away they are unlikely to be affected by the same event. If you are new to Canada or have recently moved to a new area, make arrangements through friends, cultural associations or community organizations.

**Plan for pets:**

In case of an evacuation, remember that pets are not allowed in some public shelters or hotels. Prepare to take your pets with you to the home of a relative or friend, or take steps to identify pet-friendly hotels or pet boarding facilities in your area and further away from home.

It may assist the first responders to be aware of the type and number of pets that your residence hosts:

Animal 1: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of: \_\_\_\_\_

Animal 2: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of: \_\_\_\_\_

Use additional pages if you require more space.

In the case of an evacuation, it may assist the Emergency Management Agency to understand how many and what types of livestock are located in the affected area:

Animal Type: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of: \_\_\_\_\_

Animal Type \_\_\_\_\_ Number of: \_\_\_\_\_

Use additional pages if you require more space.

In the event our Emergency Management Agency is facilitating evacuations, it may be helpful for them to understand what types of rural facilities we have in our communities or on our farms and ranches, that could accommodate an evacuation of agricultural/farm animal operation. Please list any facilities you have that may be able to accommodate neighboring farm operations in an emergency evacuation. By providing this information, you will be added to a resource list to contact in the event the Emergency Management Agency is searching for local resources, and you will be able to advise availability.

Type of Facility: \_\_\_\_\_ Number it can accommodate: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Facility: \_\_\_\_\_ Number it can accommodate: \_\_\_\_\_

In the event our Emergency Management Agency is handling a local emergency, it may be helpful for them to understand what types of equipment might be available locally which could assist in an evacuation or emergency. Please list any equipment you have that could assist. By providing this information, you will be added to a resource list to contact in the event the Emergency Management Agency is searching for local resources, and you will be able to advise availability.

Type of Equipment & Quantity: \_\_\_\_\_ Quantity: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Equipment & Quantity: \_\_\_\_\_ Quantity: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Comments or Information:

## **Inter-municipal Development Plans (IDP) with Big Valley and Donalda (Bylaws 1609-19 and 1610-19)**

In April, County Council held public hearings and gave 2nd reading to Bylaws that will establish an inter-municipal development plan with the Villages of Donalda and Big Valley. These plans address growth and development in areas of mutual interest – mostly the lands that border each community. These plans often address future land use, how each community is involved in the approval of developments, provisions for transportation, environmental concerns and coordinating any other programs that will be affected by development. The review and adoption of IDP's is a new legislation requirement that was mandated in the most recent changes to the Municipal Government Act. The County must have IDP's in place with each neighboring municipality prior to April 2020.

## **Rent for Stockpile Sites**

In the past, when the County wished to rent land for the purposes of stockpiling gravel or other materials, the rate was negotiated without guidelines. Council has updated that policy to include basing the top and bottom caps for rental rates on market value. These rates will still be negotiated with each individual landowner.

## **Installations of Approaches**

When the oil and gas industry (and other industries) need access to land, they generally need to obtain permission from the County to build an approach off of the County roads. In some situations, these companies are looking to use an existing approach that was previously used for agriculture or other industrial purposes. Neither of these situations were addressed in the policy, in terms of inspection and application to do so. This policy update now outlines the procedures for using an existing approach.

There are also instances when industries would like to turn their approaches over to the landowner as an agriculture approach. The policy has been updated to allow for this procedure to happen. If this is the case, either the landowner or the industrial applicant will have to file a new application for an agriculture approach, to be inspected by Public Works. (Agriculture applications are not charged a fee).

## **Road Use Agreements**

One of the ongoing issues with Road Use Agreements, is the sometimes onerous procedure of getting security deposits for routes and hauls that are short or routine. Council looked to address this concern by altering the fee structure for inspections, placing a maximum on the number of inspections one company must pay for in one year, reducing the notice required for an inspection and instituting a blanket security amount rather than calculate it per mile.

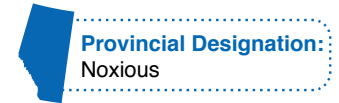
## **Speed Limit Change – Range Road 19-3**

The County has put a significant effort into improving the road on the east and south portions of the Town of Stettler on the “Resource Road”, and want to encourage heavy traffic to move to those designated haul routes, and to discourage heavy traffic from driving on gravel roads in front of residences that fall just beyond the Resource Road. In order to reduce traffic and save the integrity of the road structure, the County has instituted a speed limit reduction on Township Road 38-4 between Range Road 19-4 and 19-3 to 60 km/hr. This change came into effect on June 12, 2019 and all the signage has been updated.



# Leafy Spurge

*Euphorbia esula*



USDA APHIS PPQ Archive, USDA APHIS PPQ, Bugwood.org



USDA APHIS PPQ Archive, USDA APHIS PPQ, Bugwood.org

## Overview:

Leafy spurge is a long-lived perennial that was introduced as either an ornamental or crop seed contaminant in the early 1800's. It reproduces primarily by re-sprouting from its extensive, persistent, creeping root system, but also by seed. Leafy spurge roots can extend 4.5 m laterally and about 9 m deep. Leafy spurge forms dense stands over time and a large plant can produce up to 130,000 seeds. All parts of the plant contain a milky-coloured latex that can poison livestock and cause skin irritation on humans. Cypress spurge is very similar in appearance, but leafy spurge is taller, has longer leaves, and less branching in the upper part of the plant.

## Habitat:

Native to much of Europe and Asia, it is adapted to a wide variety of site conditions. It grows on a range of soil types and tolerates very dry to very wet climates, but does require some warmth for good growth. Seasonal flooding of riparian infestations can distribute seed long distances.

## Identification:

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

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

**Flowers:** Flowers are small, yellowish-green, lack both petals and sepals, and are supported by 2 green, heart-shaped, leaf-like bracts, arranged in numerous small clusters.

**Seeds:** Seeds are about 2mm, smooth, oblong, light gray to dark brown in color and grow in pods on top of the bracts. When mature the dried seed pods explode, distributing seed as far as 5 m from the parent plant.

## Prevention:

Producers should exercise caution when using hay from road ditches and when purchasing hay from known infested areas.

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

## Control:

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

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

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

*continued next page*



# SHAYLYN MCNEIL AWARDED AGRICULTURE BURSARY

**Congratulations and good luck to our 2019 ASB bursary recipient.**

For the past five years the County has provided a bursary to a high school or post secondary institute student for their volunteer work, and what they see their contributions would be for the future of agriculture in and around the County of Stettler. This year's recipient is Shaylyn McNeil.

This horse fanatic is excited to bring an advanced equine veterinary experience to this area. Shaylyn is just beginning her 8 year expedition into becoming a veterinarian. After school, she would like to return to the Stettler area as a large animal veterinarian.

One part of the application for the bursary was to provide and explain one idea that would positively impact agriculture. Here is her answer:

*"The idea that I have that would positively impact agriculture in Stettler, AB would be the increase number of specialized horse veterinarians. I have spoken with many community members about the low knowledge of horses that the veterinarians usually have. One female explained that one of the vets told them not to vaccinate their horses for a disease because it doesn't have*

*the capability to thrive in Alberta weather. So the female looked deeper into the disease and found that there had been multiple cases throughout the current year of that disease in Central Alberta.*

*The increase in specialized veterinarians will positively impact the community because there are many horse related groups and clubs around Stettler and the surrounding communities. Some of the groups include four different horse 4H clubs, multiple cutting horse clubs, ranch horse teams and the abundance of cowboys and barrel racers in the community. All these groups trust veterinarians to give accurate assistance to their horses. Many travel outside of the Stettler area to find a specialized vet for their horses.*

*If Stettler had specialized vets it would keep the profits within the community and help grow and develop future agriculture within the Stettler area. This is my idea that would positively affect agriculture in Stettler."*

On behalf of the Agricultural Services Board, and the County of Stettler No. 6, congratulations to Shaylyn.



# AGGREGATE LEVY COUNTY OF STETTLER

## Community Aggregate Payment Levy

### Why is the County implementing a CAP Levy?

Municipalities have had the ability to pass a Community Aggregate Payment (CAP) Bylaw since January 1, 2006. The original intent of the program was to demonstrate value of sand and gravel operations to local communities and decrease public opposition to these types of developments. The County has been recently looking at their philosophies regarding extraction type developments and have been identifying a number of strategies that can help mitigate both the public opposition and the increasing costs of infrastructure maintenance as a result of extraction type developments. One of these strategies includes utilizing the CAP program to generate funds to allocate back into the communities affected by extraction developments.

### How much money will the CAP Levy generate?

Since the amount the County will levy is dependent upon the amount of sand and/or gravel extracted from each pit, the amount is hard to predict until we have our first year of reporting. Reporting will be submitted by the Sand and Gravel operator on an annual or semi-annual basis through a prescribed form. The maximum levy that the County could charge is \$0.40 per tonne of sand and gravel extracted.

### What will the County use the money for?

The County could use the money for community improvements, projects, infrastructure improvements, or to improve infrastructure in pit extraction areas. We will be collecting public feedback to provide to Council so they can debate how that looks. There are options for setting aside the money for specific projects or purposes, using it for an already established grant or project or setting aside the money for infrastructure improvements in specific affected areas. Council will allocate the funds with a policy that outlines such, after the bylaw is passed.

### When will the CAP levy Bylaw come into effect?

Council has held a stakeholder engagement session with sand and gravel operators to receive their input. We are planning further public engagement this fall, including a survey to the general public as well as continued stakeholder engagement. The budget for 2019 has been passed, so in all likelihood, the bylaw may be passed in 2019, but will not come into effect until 2020, giving sand and gravel businesses time to adjust their operations accordingly.

Watch our website for more information and public engagement opportunities regarding the aggregate levy - coming this fall.



# HOW TO: DEVELOPMENT PERMIT APPLICATIONS

## Processing Stages of a Development Permit Application

### Application

A completed Development Permit Application form and fees must be submitted to the County's Planning & Development Department. The completed form must include the following information:

- Contact information for applicant.
- Site Information
  - o Legal land description,
  - o Subdivision name,
  - o Rural address,
  - o Any existing buildings
  - o Present use of the site.
- Description of the proposed development
  - o Value,
  - o Floor area,
  - o Proposed setbacks,
  - o Height above grade,
  - o Type of footings/foundation,
  - o Access.
  - o Additional information will be required in the case of a mobile home/recreational

vehicle/modular home – model, year, serial number, length and width.

- Geographic Information (within 800 metres (1/2 mile) of proposed development)
  - o landfill or garbage disposal,
  - o sour gas facilities,
  - o right of way,
  - o river, creek or waterbody,
  - o slopes of 15% or greater,
  - o confined feeding operation,
  - o sewage treatment plant or sewage lagoon,
  - o environmentally sensitive areas,
  - o provincial highway intersection (800m),
  - o provincial highway right of way (300m),
  - o Multi lot subdivision,
  - o Municipal Boundary (name of adjacent municipality).
- A site plan, indicating property boundaries, existing structures, road allowances, set back distances, etc.
- A completed Consent Form with the name and signature of the applicant(s) and owners of the property.

Continued...



- An abandoned oil and gas well search report. The online viewer may be found on the Alberta Energy Regulator website: <http://mapviewer.aer.ca/Html5/Index.html?viewer=aerabnwells>

Applications for a commercial, industrial or home occupation development permit, the following information must also be provided:

- Business Operation Details
- Description of Business
- Office Location
- Will the business be advertised, marketed or signed? Provide details.
- Will the development generate additional traffic to the business/home? Provide details.
- How many people will the business employ? Resident? Non Resident?
- Will there be outdoor storage? Will it be visible from the road? Provide details.
- Services – Water supply, sewage disposal. Provide details.
- Additional information may be required in order to process the application.

Part 7 of the County's Land Use Bylaw differentiates the various Land Use Districts within the County with specific stipulations for

each zoning district. The Development Officer will evaluate the application and determine if there is a provision for the proposed use within the applicable land use district. The Development Officer is also required to consider whether the proposed development meets the requirements of the Municipal Development Plan. Consideration to applicable statutory plans must also be given for properties within the referral area identified in the Town & County Intermunicipal Development Plan (IDP), the Buffalo Lake Intermunicipal Development Plan, the Buffalo Lake South Shore Intermunicipal Development Plan as well as area structure plans depending on where the property is located within the County.

Pursuant to s. 683 of the Municipal Government Act, the Development Authority must, within 20 days after the receipt of an application for a development permit, determine whether the application is complete. If the application is deemed to be incomplete the applicant is notified in writing of the additional information required to proceed with the processing of the application.

#### **Permit Issuance**

Site inspections are conducted on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month to determine if a proposed development complies with the County's Land Use Bylaw and is compatible with



the surrounding area. Following a site inspection, development permit applications are referred to internal County Departments for feedback.

Each Land Use District identifies different types of development and/or land uses as 'permitted' or 'discretionary'. If the proposed use is identified as a Permitted Use in the Land Use District the Development Authority, in making a decision on the application shall:

- (a) approve, with or without conditions, the application if the proposed development conforms with the Land Use Bylaw; or
- (b) refuse the application if the proposed development does not conform to this Bylaw.

The Development Officer may refer any Development Permit application to the Municipal Planning Commission which in his/her opinion should be decided by the Municipal Planning Commission.

All Discretionary Use development permit applications and Variance applications exceeding 10% of the standard are referred to the Municipal Planning Commission for consideration/approval. The Municipal Planning Commission meetings are held on the fourth Wednesday of each month.

The Development Authority shall have regard to the circumstances and merits of the application, including but not limited to the following:

- (a) the impact on properties in the vicinity of such nuisance effects as smoke, airborne emissions, earth borne vibrations, odors and noise;
- (b) the design, character and appearance of the proposed development and in particular whether it is compatible with the surrounding properties;
- (c) any or all of the matters listed in Sections 24.1 and 24.2 of the County's Land Use Bylaw, but not necessarily limited to those considerations;
- (d) the servicing and access requirements for the proposed development.

Following a decision by the Municipal Planning Commission a 'Notice of Decision' is forwarded to the applicant and adjacent landowners and published in the local newspaper. Affected parties have twenty-one days to file an appeal to the Subdivision and Development Appeal Board.

If no appeals are filed and if all of the conditions of the permit, except those of a continuing nature, have been satisfied, then a Development Permit is issued.

# HELP STOP

## THE SPREAD OF ABSINTHE WORMWOOD



IF YOU SPOT THIS NOXIOUS WEED CONTACT



**COUNTY OF STETTLER No. 6**  
**AGRICULTURAL SERVICES BOARD**  
**403-742-4441**



# ABSINTHE WORMWOOD

## What's New?

Priority Area Weed Control (PAWC), was a pilot program our Agricultural Services Board put into place in 2012 to assist us with the control of Absinthe Wormwood in the County of Stettler. The pilot program was tested in Townships: 35-17, 36-21, 38-17, 41-18, 40-20 (Rochon Sands Estates only).

The idea was for each landowner in the five townships of land identified to have a problem, to start control at the outside of each of their quarters, and control the outer 120 feet, all the way around their quarter section. In the second year the idea was to control the outside 240 feet of the quarter. In the third year, landowners were to control the outside 360 feet of the quarter. At this rate, it would take six years to carry out the control of Absinthe Wormwood (*Artemisia absinthium*) in a section of land.

This elevation of Absinthe Wormwood to a 'Noxious' weed, was at the request of the public. For years, the public lobbied the local government to do something about this invasive plant that taints the milk of lactating cows and infests pastures to the point native species will not/can not grow.

In December 2010, through bylaw, Absinthe Wormwood was finally elevated to Noxious. The Province recognized this elevation, and control began in the spring of 2011. This has been a long but rewarding process, but by no means are we done fighting this plant.

Now in 2019, the pilot program is complete and Agricultural Services will start the process of encouraging and enforcing the control of Absinthe Wormwood throughout the County in all townships.



At this time as our weed inspectors are making their way throughout the County inspecting lands and contacting those who have this invasive plant, and assisting those who require our help.

Remember the quickest way to see a reduction of this weed, is to help each other out. Assist and communicate with your neighbors. If you notice your neighbor out pulling or spraying this weed, think about doing the same. We are still and will always be controlling our roadways, gravel pits, and public lands the most efficient way possible.

Absinthe Wormwood is a biannual plant that in any given year can host up to 50,000 seeds, and can sit dormant for up to 25 years in the soil. The seeds are an oilseed, therefore they can resist most common control methods like swathing

and putting them into a silage pit (heat). Feeding to ruminant animals (calves, sheep, goats) does not work as it goes right through them and comes out fertilized.

In a pasture situation one of the only control methods that works is to train young animals to graze it down. Remember, this is only season-long control. Use a registered herbicide product for long-lasting control (in some cases up to four years). With good pasture management, allowing wanted vegetation to thrive, we can regain healthy pastures.



# HOW TO: SUBDIVISION APPLICATIONS

## Processing Stages of a Subdivision Application for a Single Parcel of Land

### Application

When a land owners wishes to subdivide a property by creating a new parcel with a separate land title, the individual must first apply to the County of Stettler for a subdivision approval. Gaining this approval begins with a subdivision application that outlines the details of the proposed subdivision.

A complete subdivision application must include:

- Contact information for applicant.
  - Site information
  - Legal Land Location
  - Proposed parcel size
  - Hamlet/Subdivision Name (if applicable)
  - Rural Address
  - Existing Buildings and present use
  - Existing water and sewage disposal systems
  - Existing parcel size
  - An abandoned oil and gas well search report.

The online viewer may be found on the Alberta Energy Regulator website:  
<http://mapviewer.aer.ca/Htm15/Index.html?viewer=aerabnwells>

- Proposed Parcel
  - Number of parcels to be created

- Proposed parcel size
- Reasons for subdivision
- Existing water and sewage disposal systems

- Geographic Information (within 800 metres of proposed site)
- Physical Characteristics of Land to be Subdivided
- A site plan indicating property boundaries, existing structures, road allowances, setback distances, etc.
- A complete consent form with the name and signature of the applicant(s) and owners of the property.
- Additional information may be required as deemed necessary to process the application

Subdivision fees are determined by the size/type of subdivision pursuant to the County of Stettler Fee Schedule. A contribution to the Rural Development Fund (RDF) is required for all subdivision applications. The amount of the contribution varies with the parcel size and is determined once the property has been surveyed.

### Approval

Prior to gaining approval, the proposed subdivision must meet the requirements of a variety of the statutory plans that govern the subdivision and development processes within the County of Stettler. These statutory plans include the County of Stettler Municipal Development Plan (MDP) and



the Land Use Bylaw (LUB). Depending on where the property is located within the County, the application may also need to be consistent with other statutory plans such as the Town & County Intermunicipal Development Plan (IDP), Buffalo Lake Intermunicipal Development Plan (BLIDP), the Buffalo Lake South Shore Intermunicipal Development Plan (BLSSIDP) and any number of local area structure plans.

Once a complete subdivision application has been received, a Development Officer will perform a site inspection to evaluate the completeness of the application, any potential impacts on adjacent lands or affected parties and whether or not the application meets the requirements of the statutory plans. Site inspections generally happen on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month. Following the site inspection, the application is referred to all adjacent landowners, interests on title and any other agency or individual/group that may be affected by the application. A response to the referral is required within 21 days of the referral date. Once the referral period has lapsed the application is presented to the Municipal Planning Commission (MPC) at their regular meeting scheduled for the fourth Wednesday of each month.

If the Municipal Planning Commission approves an application, an approval letter is forwarded to the applicant indicating the approval/denial of

the application and any conditions attached to the subdivision. It is then the responsibility of the applicant to meet the conditions of the subdivision approval. A subdivision approval is valid for one (1) year. At the end of the year following approval, the applicant may request an extension for an additional year.

#### **Endorsement**

When an applicant is ready to have the subdivision endorsed for registration at Land Titles, the applicant must contact the County office. The applicant or applicants' surveyor will also provide any survey plans and other documentation required to confirm the conditions of the subdivision approval have been met. The Planning and Development Department will review the submitted documentation to determine if the conditions have all been met or if there are outstanding conditions. If road widening was required, all interests listed on the land title of adjacent land (within 40 metres) must be sent a Registered Letter informing them of the road widening prior to endorsement. The Planning and Development Department will then endorse the subdivision for registration at Land Titles. The original documents (signed, sealed and stamped) will be returned to the Surveyor, either by mail or courier. The surveyor will then register the subdivision with Land Titles. Once the subdivision has been registered at Land Titles the subdivision process is complete.

## Save a Tree

Sign up for e-versions of County Connection magazine by contacting [nthorsteinsson@stettlercounty.ca](mailto:nthorsteinsson@stettlercounty.ca) or by calling 403-742-4441.

It's also available on our website at [www.stettlercounty.ca](http://www.stettlercounty.ca).



## RECYCLING

# Bag Share: Take a Bag! Leave a Bag!

Got too many clean reusable bags?  
Drop them off at Stettler Sobeys  
or Sean's No Frills.  
Forgot your reusable bag?  
Take one!

Sponsored by the  
Heartland Beautification Committee.



# COMMUNITY EVENTS



## Stettler Town & Country Museum

Stettler Antique Tractor Club  
WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS!

Meetings every second Wednesday of the month at  
7:00 pm at Stettler Museum.

### TRACTOR PULL

Saturday, July 27, 2019

- Free Admission and/or participation
- Over 40 Antique Tractors to watch
- Bring your own Antique Tractor and show everyone what it's made of!

More information by contacting Karen at Stettler Town & Country Museum 403-742-4534.

### ENGLISH AFTERNOON TEA (August - Date TBD)

- Hats & Costumes welcomed in the spirit of this new event.
- Parasol Dueling & more

## VIP Farm Tours


Join us Saturday, August 10 and discover a day in the life of Stettler County! We'll board our bus at 9:00 AM and visit several different agricultural operations in the County of Stettler. Producers, farmers and ranchers will show you first-hand what it's like to live the rural life. Find out what's new, what markets they cater to and learn how their industries have evolved. A delicious lunch is included. Tickets at [www.tasteoftheheartland.ca](http://www.tasteoftheheartland.ca).



## Long Table Dinner & Street Dance

After your VIP Farm Tour, freshen up and meet us all on historic Main Street Stettler for a delectable Farm to Table Dinner, followed by a Main Street Dance with Live entertainment. Now 50% sold out! Saturday, August 10, 2019. Tickets at [www.tasteoftheheartland.ca](http://www.tasteoftheheartland.ca)

# COMMUNITY EVENTS



**RCMP**  
*Musical Ride*

**Date: JULY 20, 2019**  
**Times: 2:00 PM & 7:00 PM**  
**Location: Stettler Ag Grounds**

**\$15**   **\$10**   **free**  
18yrs & over   6 - 17 yrs   5 yrs & under

**RUSH SEATING AVAILABLE**

Get tickets at the Stettler Ag Society Office, 4516 52nd Street, Stettler | 403-742-6288

## Erskine Floats & Flicks

Tentative Date:  
September 7, 2019

## Byemoor Parade & Slo-Pitch Tournament

August 16-18, 2019

- Pancake Breakfast Saturday & Sunday
- Parade Saturday at 11 am
- Kids Carnival Saturday
- Dance Saturday at 9 pm
- Slo-Pitch Finals Sunday



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