

Stettler County Connection

2020 FARM TOUR

TASTE OF THE HEARTLAND

pg 09

CHECKING PIPES

IS THERE LEAD IN YOUR
WATER?

pg 10

Ladies

Only
Calving Clinic

Feb. 12

pg 17



Our 2020 Calendar was produced through an internal employee photo contest and displays 'what we do/everyday activities' at the County of Stettler. Pick up your copy at the County Admin Building or at our Public Works Facility.

2020 PHOTO CONTEST BEGINS FEBRUARY 1

Theme: The activities and games we play in Stettler County.

In 2021 Edmonton and Red Deer will be playing host to the World Junior Ice Hockey Championships (December 26, 2020-January 5, 2021). Leading up to those games we thought it would be fun to focus on the fun and sometimes unusual rural activities, and games we play in Stettler County! This could include traditional games like hockey, rodeo and curling, to the untraditional and creative fun activities we come up with, to cut into the monotony of everyday work and chore-life in rural Alberta. As always, your submissions must be photos taken within the County of Stettler.

Our 2020 Photo Contest will occur throughout the year. Participants are invited to submit up to three (3) photos per SEASON. Following are the dates and submission deadlines:

WINTER: February 1 - March 31

SPRING: April 1 - June 20

SUMMER: June 22 - September 8

FALL: September 8 - November 2

Please note - your photos do not have to be taken during the above timelines, the timelines simply outline the submission 'opening' and 'deadline' for that season. Judging for our 2020 Photo contest will occur in November and winning entries will be included in our 2021 Calendar. For eligibility, complete contest rules and to make submissions please visit our website at www.StettlerCounty.ca and click on Photo Contest. Prizes for contest winners include \$75 in Heart of Alberta dollars (Stettler Bucks) and one grand prize winner will be awarded an iPad!



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STETTLETS
COMMUNITES



COUNTY CONNECTION

INTRO

“Don’t judge each day by the harvest you reap, but by the seeds you plant.”
-Robert Louis Stevenson

We had a very productive Rural Municipalities of Alberta Fall Conference with Council. One of Council’s roles is to bring issues facing our municipality and our citizens to the forefront. Twice a year we are provided that opportunity through the spring and fall Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) conferences. RMA is the association that advocates to the province on our behalf. But we also have an opportunity to bring ideas and problems to the province’s attention when attending these conferences.

This fall we were fortunate to receive meetings we requested with the Minister of Municipal Affairs Kaycee Madu, the Minister of Transportation Ric McIver and the RCMP K-Division. We were able to discuss some legislative hurdles with Minister Madu, due to some wording in the Municipal Government Act. We again brought the disrepair of Highway 855 (Byemoor region) to the Minister of Transportation’s desk, and we discussed with several members of the RCMP K-Division (Alberta division) what has been working, and what hasn’t in the fight against rural crime in our region.

Some days we feel we aren’t getting anywhere. But from those meetings we have received news that Highway 855 will be repaired by the province, and Municipal Affairs has invited us to participate in their review of the Municipal Government Act. Just a small sample of your elected representatives advocating and working for the betterment of our region.

Niki Thorsteinsson
Director of Communications

Stettler County Connection

Winter 2020
Volume 10 Issue 1

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Printed by
Kathy’s Printing Service

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

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





Reeve Clarke congratulating employee Sharon Larson for 35 years of service to the County of Stettler, at the annual employee service awards held in December at our Public Works Facility.

REEVE'S RAMBLINGS

On behalf of Council for the County of Stettler, I would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year and best wishes for 2020. The cold period we just experienced certainly is challenging all mankind, livestock and all equipment in Alberta. I hope all have weathered this well and look forward to the forecasted warming trend.

In the County of Stettler, 2019 began with tidying up the amalgamation of the newest hamlet to Stettler County: Botha. Several water drainage issues were consulted on and addressed and projects have since been completed. Most recently, the final merging of Botha bylaws into Stettler County bylaws has commenced. No sooner had the County realized Botha's merge as almost complete, than we received word the Village of Gadsby had voted in favor of dissolution. 2020 will find us working through the same process with what will soon be the new hamlet of Gadsby. We welcome them to the County family and look forward to working with their community in the new year.

In 2019, the County took on a proactive approach to rural bylaw enforcement and protection. With three full time officers now on staff we were able to increase rural patrols, establish a more visible and greater presence in our rural communities and on our roadways. Our newly formed Rural Crime Committee is in full swing and have held community engagement sessions and alongside the RCMP.

2020 will bring the Rural Crime Committee further to centre stage with their planned attendance at the 2020 Stettler Trade Show.

Protective Services now hold informal 'Coffee with a Cop' sessions in collaboration with the RCMP in our rural community halls to provide insight, information and to answer questions.

Protective Services is also the head of the Stettler Emergency Management Agency. In 2019 they took an active roll in re-training and providing further training for all positions that would be involved in a real-life event or emergency situation in our region. They have included all stakeholders in engagement and training opportunities and the Stettler Regional Emergency Management Agency Emergency Plan is currently being reviewed and updated by an outside contractor in consultation with our team.

A change in our provincial government has increased engagement opportunities with our local MLA, Nate Horner, and also with new ministers. Council has taken every opportunity to engage with our provincial politicians and to advocate for our area. In our 2020 Strategic Plan, further engagement, positive lobbying and education is Council's number one priority. We are concerned with our budgeting challenges and changes to provincial budgeting that effects us all. Examples in 2019 are Policing service costs, a 35% reduction in shallow gas well taxation which we have to absorb and the reduction in our MSI funding.

continued...



Council and Administration gathering for the Rural Municipalities of Alberta Fall Conference.

Rural Crime Watch Committee

Stettler Trade Show

April 17, 18 and 19, 2020

Come visit your Rural Crime Watch Committee Booth for information, ideas and tips at the 40th Annual Stettler Trade Show!

REEVE'S RAMBLINGS CONTINUED

CAO Cassidy and staff have worked tirelessly to ensure we develop a budget that meets our financial challenges but 11½ to 12th hour changes from the Provincial government that effects our budget makes this very frustrating and difficult to meet and finalize budgets.

We have and will continue to lobby to ensure rural Alberta and our County is represented and are receiving and only paying our share. Much more engagement will occur as we receive more information on the province's new Policing Service costs, which have been handed down to small municipalities across our province. In terms of new priorities Council has identified a need to look closely and partner with economic development opportunities, research options and incentives to sell lots in our smaller villages and a need to pre-identify plans and abilities to welcome or attract development in our County. Council will consider replacing aging bridge infrastructure with culverts, complete a reserve analysis and identify waterline expansion plans and future water servicing policy to bring clean safe drinking water to rural properties in need.

We are thankful for our community, their continued engagement with us and a dedicated hard working staff who takes pride in keeping Stettler County moving and in providing services in a timely manner. We look forward to capitalizing on the opportunities that present in 2020, moving Stettler County forward for another year.

Larry Clarke, REEVE



(L to R) In 2019, Gordon Nitschke presented Raymond Meston with the Stettler Dodge Community Service Award with sponsor Darren Benson, Stettler Dodge. Our annual Community Service Awards are being held February 6 at Erskine I.O.O.F Hall.

RECREATION SPECIAL PROJECT FUNDING

Supporting Recreation in our Communities

Council for the County of Stettler approved the following projects for funding from the Recreation Special Project Reserve, totaling \$50,165.60

Applicant	Project	Funding
Botha Community Centre	Botha Arena Code Upgrades	\$5,000.00
Linda Hall	Electrical Repairs	\$4,000.00
Red Willow Agriculture Society	Ballpark Facility Fence	\$3,596.25
Nevis Community Centre	Well/steps/exhaust fan/drywall	\$12,000.00
Donalda Agricultural Society	Eavestroughing/Culverts	\$4,800.00
Big Valley Community Centre	Fan Installation	\$3,885.00
Erskine IOOF Hall	Roof over Seniors Centre	\$3,000.00
Big Valley Bust Out Rodeo	Panels	\$2,524.35
Sullivan Lake Agriculture Society	Eavestroughing	\$5,000.00
Stettler & District Agriculture Society	Eavestroughing/Overhead Door	\$6,360.00.

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STETTLER COUNTY'S STRATEGIC PLAN

The Planning Process

Each year we survey our citizens and present feedback to Council regarding reported priorities and needs. Council then embarks on Strategic Planning sessions to set the direction and determine the course and priorities for our County as a whole. Council's plan directs administration and staff for the coming year. Below you will find Council's 2020-2023 Strategic Plan.

COUNCIL & GOVERNANCE

- 1.1. Expand positive lobbying and educational efforts.
- 1.2. Develop and expand opportunities with community partners in Economic Development & Tourism.
- 1.3. Develop Lot Sales Strategies for Botha, Gadsby, Erskine lots. Encourage development through opportunity.
- 1.4. Develop a plan and establish a reserve for the future of the County's municipal needs, infrastructure.
- 1.5. Amend procedural bylaw and look at Council scheduling and meeting efficiency.

PUBLIC WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

- 2.1. Council to provide direction on replacing aging bridge infrastructure with culverts.
- 2.2. Adopt Equipment Replacement plan.
- 2.3. Adopt Aggregate Levy Bylaw (CAP Bylaw).
- 2.4. Establish budget and strategy for future maintenance of County's 'surface' roads including Fenn Road and the Ring (Bypass) Road.
- 2.5. Council to provide direction for future of old Public Works yard site, after reclamation has been completed.
- 2.6. Develop and adopt road philosophy.
- 2.7. Adopt a plan for the future of County lands.

CORPORATE SERVICES

- 3.1. County conducts a Reserve Analysis and Council adopts a policy on reserve levels.
- 3.2. County continues digitization of vault documents.
- 3.3. Plans and policy for the future of recreation funding and recreation reserves are adopted by Council.



- 3.4. A plan is formalized outlining County's aging infrastructure (halls, rinks etc.) for Council to adopt.

MUNICIPAL SERVICES

- 4.1. Council identifies waterline expansion plan and water servicing policy.
- 4.2. Identify water infrastructure repairs and replacement schedule for Council to adopt.
- 4.3. Review and update the Stettler Regional Emergency Management Agency's Emergency Response Plans.

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

- 5.1. Major review of the Buffalo Lake South Shore Intermunicipal Development Plan.
- 5.2. Establish a reserve fund for Emergency Access and Egress for the south shore of Buffalo Lake.
- 5.3. Pre-identify plans and abilities to welcome or attract development opportunities (land, power, gas, water, rail access).
- 5.4. Identify public boat launch access and opportunities to provide expanded public access to the south shore of Buffalo Lake.
- 5.5. Complete Intermunicipal Development Plans and Intermunicipal Collaboration Frameworks with neighboring municipalities as required by the MGA.
- 5.6. Integrate Gadsby Land Use Bylaws into the County's LUB's.
- 5.7. Adopt plan for use of Buffalo Lake Municipal Reserve Funds.
- 5.8. Develop and adopt a calendar on when statutory plans will be reviewed.

OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE

- 6.1. Council adopts an asset management/capital equipment plan.
- 6.2. County updates service agreements with villages.
- 6.3. Provide expanded communications and information to citizens and neighbors with a focus on 'the County lens': tax cuts; levels of responsibility; where tax dollars come from and go; oil and gas revenue and losses; school tax requisitions; policing requisitions.
- 6.4. Initiate post-project review process for major projects.
- 6.5. Develop and adopt policy to address recreation, sporting and cultural request for funding.
- 6.6. Establish a plan to provide direction, future plans and a timeline for the Donalda Fire Hall.



WEED OF THE MONTH: SCENTLESS CHAMOMILE

Scentless Chamomile is a noxious weed that is widespread through Alberta. It commonly grows along roadsides, forage crops, and in cultivated areas where bare ground may allow it to establish quickly. If left uncontrolled, this weed can quickly establish over a large area due to its ability to produce up to one million seeds from a single plant.

Scentless Chamomile plants are generally very bushy, have finely divided leaves, and when blooming have small daisy-like ends at the end of each branch. When crushed, the heads have a noticeable lack of odor when compared to wild chamomile. They generally grow less than 0.5 meters tall, but can expand its size quickly if left without competition from a healthy crop.

Control options for this plant include herbicide application, cultivation followed by seeding a competitive crop, and hand pulling. Mowing this weed may spread mature seeds, as this plant continually produces seeds throughout the growing season. Plants that are hand pulled should be burned or bagged in order to remove the seeds from the affected area.



2020 TASTE OF THE HEARTLAND & VIP FARM TOUR

Plans are well underway for our 2020 Taste of the Heartland Long Table Dinner and VIP Farm Tours! Circle March 16 and Saturday, August 8, 2020 on your calendars. March 16 is the day TICKETS WILL GO ON SALE for our 2020 event, and after such a fun and successful event in 2019 we expect to sell out quickly.

Saturday, August 8 is the day you will want to reserve to jump on board our big bus with us for another great farm to fork **ADVENTURE**.

We are excited about all of the great agriculture operation tours we are carefully planning for 2020. In 2019 guests were thrilled to visit a working BEE farm, a corn for cattle feed operation, an award winning DAIRY operation and also to see and learn first hand all about the healing power of the herb Rhodiola rosea. All of this exciting stuff is happening right here in STETTLER COUNTY and you would never know about it, unless you jumped on board with us for the VIP Farm Tour. You will

be excited to learn about the innovative and advanced ideas, methods and products which are being developed and marketed worldwide out our BACK DOOR.

Of course following our FARM TOUR we head right down to historic Main Street Stettler for the 'fork' part of our 'farm to fork' tour. We meet in front of Brenda's Cozy Cafe where Brenda herself is joined by two more celebrity chefs to WOW us with their culinary skills and an awesome display of how delicious 'farm to fork' tastes right here in rural Alberta.

Of course no beautiful day like this happens without amazing heart of Alberta volunteers. If you are looking to be a part of one great day, please contact the Stettler Board of Trade at 403-742-3181 and join our fun and enthusiastic ever-growing team of farm to fork enthusiasts.



IS THERE LEAD IN YOUR DRINKING WATER?

Health Canada has recently lowered the acceptable limits of lead in drinking water. The water that leaves the Water Treatment Plant does not contain any lead; however, lead can leach into the water from lead pipes after leaving the Plant. The County does not have lead mains.

Unfortunately, the County does not record what type of material is on the landowner side of the property. We are currently in the process of developing a sampling plan to determine if there are areas in our County which may have lead on the homeowners side.

It is quite simple for landowners to check their homes to see if the pipe entering your basement is lead. You can check the pipes entering your home by completing the following test:

3-Step Testing Process

Step 1: Find your emergency water shut-off valve.

Once you find your emergency water shut-off valve or water meter in your home (usually in the basement), check the color and hardness of the pipe.

Step 2: Check the pipe color

Check the color of the pipe coming out of the ground and into the meter. You may have to lightly sand the surface of the pipe. If the pipe is:

- The color of a Canadian penny: It is copper.
- Bright blue or black: It is likely plastic tubing (polyethylene). Important: Don't attempt to test



the hardness of your pipe if you suspect it's plastic.

- Grey: It is galvanized iron or lead.

Step 3: Check the pipe hardness

If you think your water service line could be lead, try gently etching into the pipe. Lead is relatively soft metal and scratches easily. ***Do not attempt this if you think the line could be plastic.***

While this checklist is a good indicator of whether your pipes are lead, please note that every pipe is a little different.

At this time, the County has no data on lead levels at the tap in your individual homes. Alberta Environment has mandated that beginning in May 2020, all municipalities must collect water samples in areas of the County

that are believed to have the potential for lead in water, to determine if it exceeds Health Canada guidelines.

If a home does have higher levels than allowed, the landowner should filter the water before consuming and cooking with it. If you suspect your water may have lead in it, the easiest way to remove it is to filter your water to reduce lead exposure.

We will continue to provide residents with information on the matter as it arises. If you have further inquiries, please contact the County of Stettler Utilities Department at 403-742-4441.



EXTREME COLD? BRING SMALL PETS **INDOORS**

With the cold weather returning to central Alberta we would like to take a moment to remind residents to take extra care with their pets and animals.

Smaller animals like dogs and cats have a difficult time adjusting to cold temperatures below -20 degrees Celsius. All animals should have access to food, water, and appropriate shelter to ensure their proper care and survival. This is especially the case with our temperatures reaching -30 to -40 degrees Celsius and below overnight.

We would also like to remind everyone to be careful and plan for the worst while travelling in cold temperatures. Cold weather can wreak havoc on vehicles, and strand motorists in precarious situations. Please make sure to dress for the weather, pack extra blankets, water, snacks, and have a roadside prep kit available in your vehicles.

Residents should also take some time to prepare their 72 Hour Emergency Kit: Stock up a rubbermaid with items to help you survive at least 72 hours. Have preparedness kits for your families at their residences just in case a major weather event forces you to shelter in place. A major weather event can include extreme cold, ice storms, snow storms or electrical outages.

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 would like 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.



(L-R) Ashley Sharpe, Karen Wahlund, Manager Stettler Town & Country Museum and Briten Owens.



The County's display at the 2019 'Light the Night'.

LIGHT THE NIGHT PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD

The County of Stettler is always proud to support and participate in the Stettler Town & Country Museum's annual 'Light the Night' fundraiser event throughout the month of December.

For our December display, we were honored to be presented with the 'People's Choice Award'. Public Works Administration staff members Ashley Sharpe and Briten Owens created our annual display and were happy to attend the Museum's January meeting and receive the award.

More than 950 vehicles made their way through the Museum's annual holiday light display throughout the month of December and the museum raised more than \$9,000 in 2019 with funds still coming in.

Have you registered for the 'Take it Off' Program?

Ice fishing? Please help us protect our lake and important habitats by registering your Ice Hut online at www.StettlerCounty.ca, click on Agriculture, then click on 'Take it Off': Ice Hut Registration for Buffalo Lake. It's easy and it's free!

Tree Time - Shelterbelt Program

We are partnering once more with Tree Time to offer Stettler County a shelterbelt program. To order trees you can go to the tree time website and look at their variety, then contact our Agricultural Services Department or visit our Public Works Facility to place your orders. Visit our website for more information.

www.StettlerCounty.ca

APPLY TODAY: ASB BURSARY

Deadline to apply: April 15, 2020

The County of Stettler No. 6 Agricultural Services Board Bursary will recognize a high school graduate who is a resident of the County of Stettler, who is enrolled in post-secondary education and who has made a contribution to their community. The bursary will provide assistance to a graduate who demonstrates an interest and awareness about the importance of agriculture to the survival of rural communities. A one thousand dollar (\$1000.00) bursary will be awarded each year.

Eligibility

1. Applicant must have successfully enrolled into a post-secondary institution in any year of studies.
2. The applicant will only receive the award once.
3. Applicant must be a resident of the County of Stettler No. 6.
4. The applicant must supply the Director of Agricultural Services with:
 - a. Proof of enrollment in a college or university.
 - b. Proof of High School Diploma or eligibility.
 - c. Two personal references of no relation of the applicant.

Deadline

Applications must be received by the County of Stettler Administration no later than April 15. The successful applicant will be presented with their bursary at a following meeting.

continued...

County of Stettler No. 6 Agricultural Service Board Bursary Application Form

I hereby apply for the County of Stettler Agricultural Service Board Bursary to assist me in my program at _____ in the term beginning _____.
(Post Secondary Institution Name) (Start Date of Next Semester)

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

LEGAL LAND DESCRIPTION OR LOT BLOCK PLAN _____

EMAIL: _____

PHONE: _____

High School attended: _____

Name of Parent or Guardian: _____

Address: _____

Name, address, and phone number of two personal references:

1. _____

2. _____

Please answer the following three questions on separate paper and attach to this form.

1. What has been your community involvement/how did it better the community?
2. Tell us about your agricultural background.
3. What are your future goals?
4. Provide and explain one idea that would positively impact agriculture.
(300 words or less)

Have you attached the following to this application?

- Letter of acceptance/enrollment from Post Secondary Institution.
- Proof of High School Diploma or eligibility.
- Two personal letters of reference, of no relation to the applicant.

I declare that the above and attached information is correct to the best of my knowledge, and if I am awarded a bursary, I will comply with all related regulations to this application.

DATE

SIGNATURE

Personal information requested in this form is protected under the "Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act" (FOIP). Collection of the personal information is authorized under FOIP, Part 2, Division

1. If you have any questions regarding FOIP, please telephone (403) 742-4441 and ask for the FOIP Coordinator.

Ladies Calving ★ Clinic ★

BYEMOOR COMMUNITY HALL

**FEB
12**

**SPEAKERS 4:00 PM
SUPPER 6:00 PM
SPEAKER 7:00 PM
COST: \$30/PERSON &
INCLUDES SUPPER, DOOR
PRIZES & SWAG BUCKET**

**USING GENOMIC TESTING IN A COMMERCIAL HERD
NICKI WESTERSUND, NEOGEN CANADA**

**THE JOYS OF HAVING A NURSE COW &
WHY THEY TRY TO DIE**

**DR. TAMARA QUASCHNICK
STEADFAST VET**

**VERIFIED BEEF PRODUCTION PROGRAM
MELISSA DOWNING, VBP**

**CALVING HEALTH CONSIDERATIONS
DR. BEN SCHULTZ
MAVERICK LARGE ANIMAL**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
STETTLER COUNTY (403) 742-4441 EXT 110
STARLAND COUNTY (403) 772-3793
SPECIAL AREAS 2 (403) 854-1114**

REGISTER AT:

WWW.CALVINGCLINIC2020.EVENTBRITE.CA



Special Areas Board
est. 1938





CARDIOPULMONARY RESUSCITATION

Cardiopulmonary resuscitation is a very important skill to possess in the community because it could be life saving at any time. Most community members have never been in a situation where they have seen CPR performed on someone, or felt the need to use it themselves, which is why many do not have a certification or deem this as an important skill. Whether a person is a certified health care provider or a lay rescuer, being able to perform CPR on someone may save a life.

The most helpful person in a scenario where CPR is needed, is not the person who makes the phone call to 911, it is the person that can perform CPR at that very moment, on that very person, whose life depends on those passing seconds. If an ambulance is waited for, the person may die before a health care provider arrives. It is also extremely helpful in rural areas to be able to perform CPR on a fallen bystander if a healthcare facility is not close by.

At Stettler District Ambulance Association we believe the key to promoting CPR awareness is bringing CPR classes to places in the community. Many CPR courses are offered; however, most don't take the class unless they are required to for some reason. As paramedics, we have a team in the community offering courses. The course would be a mix of all the CPR requirements along with a portion that focus on the opioid crisis and naloxone administration. For instance, it would be really beneficial to parents of school children to know CPR, friends and families who know someone with an opioid addiction to know CPR and naloxone administration.

We would like to extend an invitation to any individual in our community and any business in our community to take part in a class.

For further information please contact Carrie Jordan at carrie@stettlerambulance.com.



THE 2020-2023 BUDGET

Council passed the 2020-2023 Budget on January 14 at their Regular Council Meeting.

The 2020-2023 Budget reflects a continuing model of demonstrated fiscal responsibility by maintaining responsible budgets in each department and by preparing, planning and setting aside reserves for future expenditures.

Each year administration challenges departments to provide long term plans and budget conservatively.

After developing a balanced budget with Council, the Provincial Government downloaded a new budget line to rural municipalities: policing. We found ourselves back at the drawing board, in the 11th hour, in an effort to re-balance our budget absorbing a \$200,000 loss in Municipal Sustainable Initiative Funding and looking for a source of income to fund \$145,000 budget line for policing for 2020. We are further tasked to fund policing with \$218,138 in 2021; \$290,643 in 2022; \$436,277 in 2023, stabilizing at that rate in 2024 but preparing for Cost of Living increases from there on.

With no new revenue sources to capitalize on, the County of Stettler No. 6 will present a balanced budget but taxpayers will find a new line for Policing Services which we will collect and remit

to the Province, not unlike the Education tax remittance, or the Senior's Housing remittance we already see. A taxpayer paying approximately \$3,000 in property taxes can expect to see a new, approximate \$33.00 in Police Services remittance on their tax bill in 2020.

We continue to investigate long-term gravel supplies, having secured a second gravel pit. We will test further County sites throughout the next two years to establish future opportunities, which may exist.

The Stettler Regional Emergency Management Agency continues to operate out of the County of Stettler with a focus on plan evaluation. We have hired contractors to update our current plan and assist with planning for our own citizens as well as the Town of Stettler, all villages and summer villages within our borders. Our Protective Services Department will continue to lead us through to a comprehensive and secure plan for emergency management.

We will continue to maintain current service levels and prioritize citizen and community needs as established. We welcome the Village of Gadsby to the County of Stettler family with this transition beginning early in 2020. Take a look at the 2020-2023 Budget on our website at www.stettlercounty.ca.



NEED AG RENTALS OR SUPPORT? CALL US!

Agricultural Services Board Rental Fees

Spraying

- | | | |
|----|---|-------------------------------------|
| a. | Weed Inspector | \$25.00/hour + chemical |
| b. | UTV Private Land Spraying (Ratepayer) * | \$80.00/hour + chemical |
| | UTV Private Land Spraying (Oilfield) * | \$140.00/hour + chemical |
| c. | Weed Picking Labourer | \$30.00/hour |
| d. | Lot Mowing | \$100.00/hour + mileage from yard |
| e. | Mobilization Fee | \$500 (weed notice compliance only) |

*Reduce private land spraying fees by 25% (labour only), for the first calendar year, for ratepayers that are controlling Absinthe Wormwood as identified in the Absinthe Wormwood Priority Area Weed Control (PAWC) program

Trees

- | | | |
|----|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| a. | Tree Planter | \$25.00/site visit |
| b. | Commercial Use | \$500.00 deposit and \$100.00/day |
| c. | Freight for tree delivery | Free of Charge (ASB pays freight) |

Rental Equipment (Agriculture Use Only)

- | | | |
|----|------------------------------------|--|
| a. | Backpack Sprayers | \$150.00 deposit |
| b. | Skid Mount Sprayer | \$250.00 deposit |
| | - Half Day | \$75.00 |
| | - Full Day | \$125.00 |
| c. | Field Sprayer | \$500.00 deposit |
| | - Half Day | \$100.00 |
| | - Full Day | \$175.00 |
| | Late Charges: | \$250/day after 3 rd day |
| d. | Godwin Pump, Hose and Hose Trailer | \$500.00 deposit |
| | | \$250.00/day |
| | Late Charges: | \$300/day after 2 nd day |
| e. | Forage Probe | \$50.00 deposit |
| | Late Charges: | \$50.00/day after 2 nd day unless otherwise agreed upon |

TALK TO US!

Is there another piece of equipment or Agriculture Service you would like to see our Agricultural Services Board offer?

We want to hear from you by March 15.

Let us know how we can help our Agricultural Industry more:

Email us: ASB@stettlercounty.ca

Phone us: 403-742-4441 x110 or

STOP BY and TELL US!

21

Traps

- | | | | |
|----|--------|---------------|--------------------------------------|
| a. | Skunk | | \$100.00 deposit |
| | | | \$15.00/week |
| | | Late Charges: | \$50/week after 2 nd week |
| b. | Magpie | | \$100.00 deposit |
| | | | \$15.00/week |
| | | Late Charges: | \$50/week after 2 nd week |

Cattle Scale

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------|
| Half Day (4 hours or less on site) | \$100.00 |
| Full Day (more than 4 hours on site) | \$125.00 |

Other

- | | | |
|----|---|-------------------------------------|
| a. | Age Verification Program - entering information | \$50.00 |
| b. | Tag Reader Program | \$10.00/3 days |
| | Late Charges: | \$100/day after 3 rd day |

*Noise Cannons

- | |
|-----------------------------|
| \$200.00 deposit per cannon |
| \$20.00/week per cannon |

*Ratepayer provides their own propane tank and propane

Inspections for Municipalities

\$65.00/hour plus mileage
(pest, weed or other inspections - including administration time)



WORK WITH US! GRAVEL HAUL-OWNER/ OPERATOR(S)

The County of Stettler No. 6 Operations Department is accepting Expression of Interest submissions (EOI) for Owner / Operator(s) of gravel trucks to work alongside County staff in delivering our 2020 gravel program.

The program generally runs from early June until late September throughout the County, with supply from multiple stockpile locations.

Interested Contract Operators should submit the following information on our EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FORM, which is available on our website or supplied by the Stettler County for each truck / trailer / driver unit:

- Name of Company;
- Company Contact, along with phone # and email address for contact;
- Truck / Trailer - make / model / year;
- Truck / Trailer - licensed haul capacity;
- Proposed Driver for that truck / trailer unit

All Expressions of Interest must be submitted to the County on the Expression of Interest FORM provided by the County and available on our website under 'Employment Opportunities', or by picking up a form at the County of Stettler. Deadline to submit your expression of interest is February 13, 2020 at 2 pm.

Please visit the County's website at www.stettlercounty.ca for the complete package, or direct your questions to County of Stettler Public Works Administration at 19561 Twp Rd 384, or to Rick Green, Director of Operations at (403) 742-4441, ext 143.



POLICY & BYLAW UPDATES AND **CHANGES**

NEW - CAP Levy

County Council has implemented a new Community Aggregate Payment Levy Bylaw, requiring gravel and sand producers to contribute funds per-tonne of aggregate extracted from pits in the County to recuperate costs associated with the heavy wear on our infrastructure.

Aggregate producers will report their shipments quarterly, and pay \$0.40 per tonne of gravel extracted. Community engagement through the form of a survey was conducted through our website and our magazine which identified where the public would like to see funds from the CAP Levy dedicated. The results weighed heavily in favour of dedicating funds to infrastructure maintenance, with some interest in using some of the funds for rural crime initiatives.

The bylaw aligns with how neighboring municipalities levy against aggregate, which also closely follows the provincial Community Aggregate Payment Levy Regulation.

General Traffic Bylaw

County Council has made several changes to the General Traffic Bylaw.

Previously, no off-road vehicles (such as ATVs and snowmobiles) were allowed to operate on any Environmental Reserves. Residents from Buffalo Lake came forward requesting a relaxation of this clause to allow access to the lake in the winter time. Council changes the bylaw to allow

Council, the CAO, or Director of Operations to erect signs allowing the use of off highway vehicles in designated portions of the ER. Signs will be erected and removed seasonally, as conditions allow for the operation of snowmobiles without disturbing the reserve.

We've adjusted some of the language around road use agreements to remove any ambiguity as to who can be charged for failing to obtain a road use agreement. Protective Services is most effectively able to charge the operator of the vehicle, rather than the company that owns the load. This is similar to vehicle safety regulations that make the driver, rather than the company, responsible for ensuring their vehicle is safe to be on the road.

A common complaint we receive is regarding unsecured loads on County roads. The County now requires that earth, sand, and gravel loads be covered.

Lastly, County Council has authorized firefighters responding to an emergency to utilize green flashing lights in their personal vehicles. Though these lights do not grant any special power under the Traffic Safety Act, they're used as an indication of the driver's intent, and to request courtesy from other drivers. If you see a vehicle with a flashing green light in our community, that means they are responding to an emergency. When traffic yields to personal vehicles responding to a fire hall or directly to an emergency, it reduces response times for emergency services to arrive on scene.



2020 VEGETATION CONTROL

Deadline for spray exemption forms: May 4, 2020

As legislated under the Alberta Weed Control Act, the County of Stettler Agricultural Service Board will be conducting roadside vegetation control for invasive species in the **north third of the County** (north of Township 400, to the County of Camrose border and west of Range Road 164 to Buffalo Lake and the Red Deer River). Adhering to Industrial Vegetation Management Association of Alberta standards, we will carry out the program for these reasons:

- Ease snow removal in the winter.
- Reduce the risk of hitting wildlife by increasing the visibility and sightline.
- The roots of trees and shrubs do damage to roads. By removing them, the road will last longer.
- After heavy rainfall, the road will dry faster with less vegetation in the ditch to hold moisture.
- Control and destroy prohibited and noxious weeds.

If you would prefer to control weeds and brush using methods that differ from the County's program, you are required to fill out a spray exemption form annually. The deadline for acceptance of these forms is May 4, 2020 at 4:00 pm.

Our program already states there is to be no vegetation control performed within 30 meters of your yard. For any questions regarding this program, or to fill out a Spray Exemption Form please call the Manager of Agricultural Services Ryan Hallett 403-742-4441 x110.



Two unique facilities available For Rent

Indoor Heated Equestrian Centre



Willow Canyon – Scenic Donalda Coulees



For more information, to rent the facilities, buy a membership or make a booking please contact Beth Fulton at 403-741-8196.

Indoor Heated Equestrian Centre Located in Donalda, AB

- 85'x200' Riding Arena
- Kitchen Facilities
- Tack Lockers
- Panels available for Round Pens and cattle handling
- Available for clinics, rentals and public riding
- Affordable membership and rental rates

Owned and operated by Donalda and District Agricultural Society

Willow Canyon – Scenic Donalda Coulees Available for Rent

Located at the former Donalda Ski Hill

- Great Tobogganing Hills
- Heated Chalet
- Fire Pits
- Affordable Rates

Owned and operated by Donalda and District Agricultural Society



WINTER READS FROM THE COMFORT OF HOME

Do these cold winter days make you want to curl up under your biggest blanket with a cup of something warm and great reading material? Does getting to the library present you with a challenge, because it means leaving the warmth and safety of your blanket? We have you covered. Explore our electronic library.

We have books, magazines, comics, newspapers, and audiobooks that you can check out from the warmth of your home and read on a computer or tablet. You can find them all through Stettler Public Library's eLibrary at <https://spl.prl.ab.ca/elibrary>. All you need is your library card and an internet connection and you will be on your way.

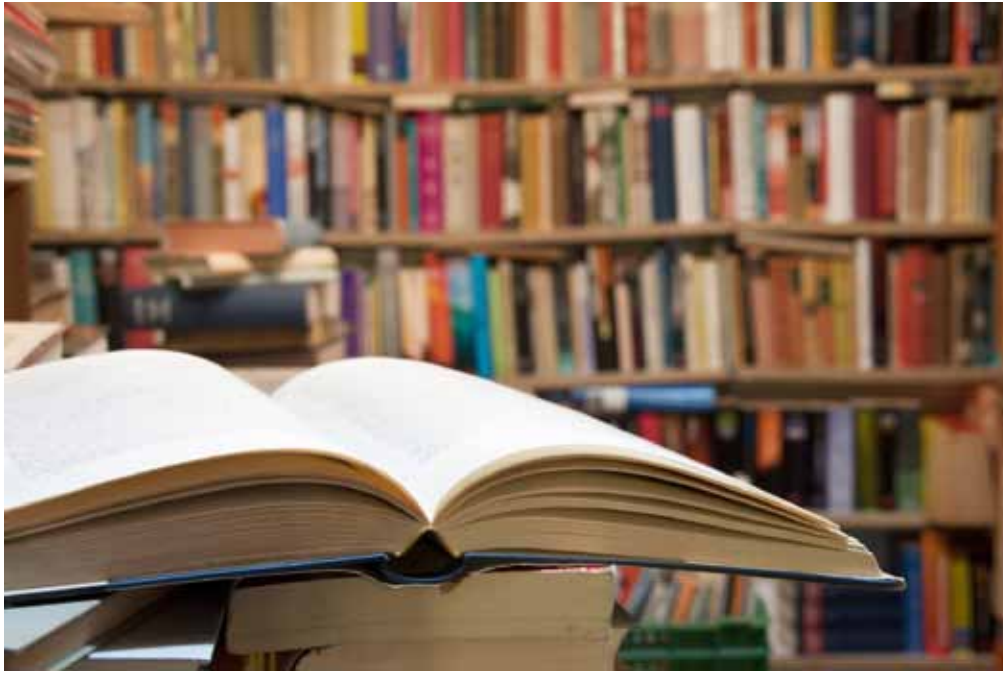
Don't have a library card? No worries. Thanks to the support of Municipal Council, memberships are free for Town and County of Stettler residents. Our staff team can walk you through the process of downloading apps to your device and signing up.

eBooks: CloudLibrary offers a growing collection of books for every taste. Our newest partnership with other Alberta libraries means we share books to double the collection you can access.

eNewspapers: Are you interested in reading the news from Edmonton or Calgary or from around the world? PressReader offers newspapers from around the world in many different languages.

eMagazines, comics and audiobooks: Check out RBDigital for all the latest magazines, comics and audiobooks. There is something for everyone.

Are you interested in getting out of the house, doing something interesting or fun and meeting others from the community? The library is pleased to offer a diverse assortment of programs and activities to keep you busy this winter. We will help heat up your winter kitchen with cooking classes at the Wm E Hay Secondary Campus. Call the library at 403-742-2292 to sign up and watch for



cooking classes which will be happening before the end of April.

On Family Day, February 17, we will be open from 12–4 pm and will be having a special puppet time story time for families at noon. Afterward, enjoy the festivities at the Stettler Recreation Centre. There will be swimming and skating and lots of family fun. Plans are under way for some awesome art and technology activities for ages 6+ over the March break. Stay tuned for more information.

For teens we have a number of great programs worth checking out. Every 1st and 3rd Tuesday, join us for our Anime Club. This club is open to ages 14+ with parental permission. We also have other fun activities like the Bad Ass Book Club, Young Writers' Club, board games and art projects.

Did you know we have a certified educator in the library who offers tutoring assistance for free?

Drop by on Mondays from 4:30-6 pm or Tuesdays from 5-8 pm to get help with your tough subjects.

From the library or home you can also try out Solaro, an e-resource that provides homework help and practice tests for the Alberta grades 3-12 curriculum.

We have so much more programming for children and adults. Stop by the library to pick up our latest brochure, follow us on Facebook or visit our website at spl.prl.ab.ca to find out what is on at the Stettler Public Library. Stop by the library to learn more about the resources available to you through your membership, we are looking forward to meeting you.

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.



RECYCLING Electronics Recycling

Additional Items Now Accepted

All our Transfer Sites can now accept additional electronic items for recycling.

The items in larger print are what we have accepted in the past. The items in smaller print at the bottom half of the list, are what we can now also accept.

ELECTRONICS RECYCLING

ACCEPTED Electronics

Televisions
Computer Monitors
Desktop Computers
Servers

Laptops, Notebooks, Tablet Computers
Desktop and All-in-One Printers

Commercial Plotters
Large Multi-Function Printers
Fax Machines

Photocopiers and Scanners
Cables, Mouse, Keyboards
Computer Speakers

Answering Machines
Ballasts
Batteries
(large rechargeable only)

Camcorders
CD players
Cell Phones
Circuit Boards
DVD Players
Laboratory Equipment

Microfiche Readers
Microwaves
Network Equipment
Pagers
Projectors
Telephones
Testing Equipment
Toner Cartridges
Uninterruptible Power Supplies (UPS)
VCR Video Recorders

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Thank you from the Stettler Festival of Lights!

Stettler Festival of Lights Chairperson Amy Roberts is very pleased to announce the net profit from the 2019 week long event was just over \$103,000.00. This total will change as more donations are still coming in. This exceeds their fundraising goal of \$100,000 to purchase equipment for the upcoming renovated ER department at the Stettler Hospital.

"I am always overwhelmed by the generosity of this town and surrounding areas. A huge thank you to our committee, volunteers, sponsors and supporters," said Amy Roberts.

Pictured below, some of the 200 seniors who attended the annual Festival of Lights Seniors Day.



County of Stettler 43rd Annual Community Service Awards

The 43rd Annual County of Stettler Community Service Awards will be held in Erskine at the Erskine IOOF Hall on February 6, 2020. This event celebrates the outstanding contributions of our volunteers in agriculture, recreation and culture.

Volunteers from our rural communities will be recognized for their outstanding service. In addition, the Stettler Dodge Community Service Award is awarded to volunteers who have shown outstanding community leadership in recreation and the ATCO Arts, Culture and Heritage Award which is awarded to volunteers who have shown outstanding leadership and commitment to the cultural aspects of our community in the area.

Tickets are \$20 and available at the County of Stettler Administration Building.

Working Well Workshop - Agricultural Services

SAVE THE DATE!

Thursday, March 12 at Buffalo Lake, AB

Learn how to test and maintain your wells in optimum condition. Watch our website www.stettlercounty.ca for further information and location of this important workshop.

Stettler Hospice Society

- February 8 - Hearts for Hospice Dine and Dance featuring The Chevelles at Stettler Community Hall. Tickets \$60
- May 3 - Save the Date: Hike for Hospice 2020 from 10 AM - 5 PM: 1K, 3K or 5K
Dogs welcome. Follow them on Facebook @StettlerHospiceSociety

COMMUNITY EVENTS

WILDCAT THEATRE
PROUDLY PRESENTS

MAMMA MIA!

THE SMASH HIT MUSICAL BASED ON
THE SONGS OF ABBA

FEBRUARY 27-29 & MARCH 5-7, 2020
7:30 PM
PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE

Tickets - \$25
Available at Wells Furniture

MAMMA MIA!
is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).
All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.
www.MTIShows.com



2020 Stettler District Music Festival Dates

April 14, 15 & 16 - PIANO
April 17 & 18 - VOCAL
April 20 - MUSICAL THEATRE
April 21 - BAND
April 22 & 23 - SPEECH ARTS
April 23 - SCHOOL CHORUS
April 26 - GRAND CONCERT

Contact: stmusicfestival@gmail.com
During Festival Season phone:
403-742-3518
Facebook: Stettler and District Music
Festival



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