

Stettler County Connection

DRILL TOWER

STETTLER REGIONAL FIRE

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HELP PUT US ON THE MAP

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Emergency

Are you
prepared?

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PAYING YOUR BILLS ONLINE? Payee Account Information

- If you are paying your **Property Tax** all Roll Numbers MUST be paid individually: **Roll Number** (example only with the Payee: County of Stettler No. 6 – **Taxes**)
- If you are paying your **Utilities** account please use: 12345601 (example only) with the Payee: County of Stettler No. 6 – **Utilities**
- If you are paying your **Accounts Receivable** account please use: ABC001 (example only) with the Payee: County of Stettler No. 6 – **Accounts Receivable**

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

WATCH FOR YOUR TAX NOTICES: **JUNE 2022**

2022 Tax Payment is due Monday, October 31, 2022. Penalties will be applied November 1.

County of Stettler tax notices will be mailed in June. **If you have not received your Notice by July 15 please contact the County of Stettler at 403-742-4441.**

After tax notices are sent out, the assessment roll will be open for inspection at the County Office, 6602-44 Avenue, during regular hours of business: Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

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 at the County Office. Complaint deadline is shown on your tax notice, with complaints being received by 4:30 p.m. and accompanied with 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, Online (please enter your Roll Number separately for each payment), or at most Financial Institutions.

For more information please contact the County of Stettler.



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COUNTY CONNECTION

INTRO

"We cannot stop natural disasters but we can arm ourselves with knowledge." *-Petra Nemcova*

May is Emergency Preparedness month, but honestly we don't need to limit preparedness to one month a year. We are again asking all residents of the County of Stettler to put together or to review and update their 72 Hour Emergency Kits and make plans for their pets and livestock in the event of a natural disaster or regional emergency.

One hour of preparation with your family members now can save you precious moments of panic and confusion in an emergency situation.

Please stop by our office for your emergency preparedness check lists. Pick up some of our emergency phone number magnets for your shop, barn or home, displaying emergency phone numbers as well as your rural address for visitors or quick reference for family members.

Farmers are in full swing now and we are noticing an increase in machinery travelling between fields. In addition our work crews are also out with summer staff throughout the County working on maintenance, clean up and project work. Our window of weather is a small one. We ask everyone to please slow down, watch for our farm traffic and give them lots of space. Watch for our staff, slow down and take a few extra minutes to pass by workers and road crews safely. At the end of the day, we all wish to get home to our friends and family and enjoy the short, sweet summer days.

Stay safe, get outside, have fun!

Niki Thorsteinsson,
Director of Communications



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REEVE'S RAMBLINGS

As I look out the window the snow we had this morning is basically gone and spring work will proceed. We are starting another agricultural year in Alberta and fields are being seeded, calves are being born and branded with all hoping and planning on a better year. This also is a year of promise for me.

What weighs heavy on my mind and my heart today is the future of Stettler District Ambulance Association.

We are lucky to have maintained an Advanced Life Support (ALS) Ambulance Service for our region, which the County of Stettler administers, when 15 years ago many of our neighbor municipalities were forced to move to a Basic Life Support (BLS) Ambulance Service.

Quite simply, an Advanced Care Paramedic on board, along with a Primary Care Paramedic or another Advanced Care Paramedic and have a higher level of training and can provide life-saving medications, cardiac life support, cardiac monitors, IV drips that save valuable minutes and seconds for ambulance patients in our region. A BLS service cannot provide the same level of care. This means for those relying on BLS service, precious moments are lost while patients are transferred great distances in rural Alberta, to hospitals emergency rooms before they can be administered stroke medications (clot dissolving medication) for example. With stroke victims, EVERY SECOND COUNTS and could mean the loss of brain function which affects our ability to think, walk and talk. Patients who receive this have a better chance of recovering and fewer complications.

We are lucky to have maintained ALS Service for this reason and more. Because the difference can literally mean life or death.

SDAA operates two full time ALS ambulances (24/7 service), where many of our neighbor municipalities only have service until 6 PM. We also operate a Paramedic Response Unit (PRU). A PRU is a specially equipped sport-utility vehicle with advance life support equipment, staffed by an Advanced Care Paramedic. A PRU cannot transport patients, but it can provide life-saving medical support and is often used in our communities when both ambulances are out of area on patient transfer or to augment a BLS ambulance from out of community and provide ALS service.

PROBLEM

Alberta Health Services (AHS) provides funding to SDAA which enables our services and support in this region. Our current 5-year contract is now 10 years old. AHS exercised their option to extend for an additional four years in 2017. SDAA has not seen an increase in funding in 10 years. Budgets have not adjusted to operational changes as ambulance service in the province has evolved over the last decade.

Our capital replacement lifecycle was aligned with the contract.

Contract delays have set us back and we can't wait any longer to start replacing capital (ambulances). The cost of purchasing an ambulance in 2011 when this contract was negotiated, was \$125,000. Today, a new ambulance costs approximately \$275,000.

As you are all aware over the past 10 years, wages and fuel prices have increased.

Running a Core-Flex Schedule, where paramedics are working on call for 96-hour shifts is increasingly unsustainable. Borderless operations have led to

continued...



REEVE'S RAMBLINGS CONTINUED...

Core/Flex shifts hitting fatigue policy limits which drastically decreases resource availability. Core/Flex Scheduling is challenging staff retention, particularly for casual employees in remote areas. We are losing staff to more desirable scheduling situations offered in urban areas.

This contract does not fund our PRU, the life-saving response unit for rural areas. We are able to staff it during the day but unable to provide 24/7 staffing under our current contract so it has to sit unstaffed half of the time.

With the strain of the pandemic and our ambulances getting used for more transfers outside of our region, they are milaging out. Our current ambulances are operating with more than 350,000 km on them, raising a reliability and replacement concerns.

Ambulances are hard to get like everything else; lead times are extended and replacement is months away. The cost of parts and supplies has increased substantially in 10 years, but the contract does not acknowledge these increases.

On April 8, 2022, Alberta Health Services implemented a 10 Point Plan, acknowledging a growing demand and strain on EMS services across Alberta. The 10 Point Plan does not address contract re-negotiation needs of municipalities across the province.

In November of 2021 we received a meeting with the Minister of Health, Jason Copping who arranged a meeting regarding the re-negotiation of our contract with AHS. IThe EMS Contract Team

had 137 contracts to negotiate in the following 200 working days.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Take a moment to write to our Minister of Health, Jason Copping, health.minister@gov.ab.ca and share your stories of our life-saving ALS Ambulance Service, and how Rural Albertans health matters. Advocate for fair compensation, updated contracts for Advanced Life Support Services for our region.

In closing, this is very near and dear to me as in the early morning hours of February 25 this year, I woke up with severe pain in my left arm that wouldn't go away or couldn't be ignored. I was placed in very good hands with the Stettler Hospital ER staff and Stettler District Ambulance Association staff in preparation and on my journey to the Foothills Cardiac ICU. I am so thankful for the ASA, blood clot breaking medication, my wife and the folks working in the above, which allow me to be sitting here writing this article today.

This is a new spring for me. I have always felt blessed to have been born and raised in the Stettler region, but we need to maintain these life saving services to ensure we all can grow old here. Please have baby aspirin on hand and know the signs and symptoms of heart attack and stroke, and seek medical attention to ensure a full recovery like I have had. Please enjoy the spring and all the new starts it offers.

Larry Clarke, REEVE



COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS ARE BACK! JUNE 16

Byemoor Community Hall

The 44th Annual County of Stettler Community Service Awards will be held at Byemoor Community Hall on Thursday, June 16, 2022. This event celebrates the outstanding contributions of our volunteers in Agriculture, Recreation and Arts and Culture. On a yearly basis, there are two awards that are presented to individuals or couples through a nomination process:

- Stettler Dodge Community Service Award is awarded to those volunteers who have shown outstanding community leadership in recreation. All nominees are considered to be hard working, community minded people who have contributed greatly to recreation in their community.
- ATCO Electric Arts, Culture and Heritage Award is awarded to volunteers who have shown outstanding leadership and commitment to the cultural aspects of their communities (coaching, teaching piano, or educating the community in various aspects of art and culture).

If you would have someone in mind that you would like to nominate for these awards, please submit your nominations to Lorraine Hankins, Manager of Recreation and Insurance at the County of Stettler. More information regarding tickets and can be found on the County website www.StettlerCounty.ca.



Captain Elizabeth Wilson and Firefighter Tara MaGee during their stairs work-out session.

DRILL TOWER STETTTLER REGIONAL FIRE

NEW TRAINING TOWER

Stettler Regional Fire Department has constructed a multi-story Drill Tower located directly behind the fire station in the Town of Stettler.

The Drill Tower is part of several training components that will be added to the fire department training grounds. The tower will provide our region with year round unlimited access to complete and maintain professional Fire Fighter Job Performance training requirements, as per Occupational Health and Safety code of practice.

Some training examples the tower will be used for include stairway hose advancement, ladder placement, rotary saw pitched roof ventilation, multi-story ladder rescue, working from heights, stand pipe and sprinkler connection, rope rescue, and fire fighter survival bailout.



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BOUGHT OR SOLD? BRING IN YOUR PURCHASE AGREEMENT

Land Titles Backlog

The County of Stettler has been made aware Alberta Land Titles has a 2-3 month backlog on the registration of your documents for changes in ownership of properties. You can help us by bringing in your purchase agreements.

As of January 31, 2022, Land Titles were registering documents submitted on October 29, 2021.
Land Titles - Surveys were registering documents submitted on November 25, 2021

The 2-3 month backlog at Alberta Land Titles impacts the County of Stettler No. 6, as we refer to Land Titles Certificates for changes of ownership and utilities billings.

If you have sold or purchased a property in the County of Stettler No. 6, you can help us by bringing in the Purchase Agreement so that we can adjust our tax files by adding your 'Agreement of Sale' until we receive a Certificate of Title from the Land Titles Office. This alerts us to switch over utilities billings to the new owner as well.

Please note, the registration of subdivisions is also delayed due to a large backlog of documents to be registered at Land Titles.



WILD BOAR CONTROL PROGRAM

There are currently no reports of Wild Boars in the County of Stettler No. 6

The Wild Boar Control Program has been supported by Stettler County since 2008.

We currently have no reports of wild boar at large within our borders, but the County of Stettler remains proactive in our approach to maintain surveillance.

As per the Government of Alberta's Wild Boar Control Program, compensation will be provided to landowners and trappers and also for wild boar hunters.

The Whole Sounder Trapping Incentive Program which began April 1 runs until March 31, 2024

Government-approved trappers will be compensated \$75 per set of ears per sounder, encouraging the elimination of entire sounders.

Landowners who work with the approved trappers are eligible for \$75 per set of ears.

For information on participating in the Whole Sounder Trapping Incentive program, please call 310-FARM (3276).



Nesting site of wild boar.

To report a sighting of wild boar at large, or signs of wild boar:

- safely take a picture
- note the location
- fill out the online reporting form at www.alberta.ca/report-wild-boar.aspx or call 310-3276 (FARM)

The Whole Boar At-Large Ear Bounty Program began April 1 and runs until March 31, 2023:

Hunters who turn in wild boar ears may receive \$75 per set of ears (two ears).

- Please note, hunters will be required to sign an affidavit swearing the boar was controlled within Stettler County's borders.
- Once DNA testing confirms it is in fact Wild Boar (*Sus scrofa*), then the hunter will receive \$75.00 from the County of Stettler. The County of Stettler will be reimbursed by the Government of Alberta.

*To submit ears to the County of Stettler, please contact asb@StettlerCounty.ca for your submission instructions, or call 403-742-4441 x3.

Wild Boar at large can damage crops and crop land, pollute water supplies and are known to spread African swine fever and can host 89 different diseases that can transmit to livestock, wildlife and humans.

For example, an outbreak of foot and mouth disease would shut down all Alberta pork and beef exports and cost \$65 billion nationwide.

The Government of Alberta is asking for Albertans to help protect our province's animals, agriculture and ecosystems. If you see a wild boar or signs of their activity, email af.wildboar@gov.ab.ca or call 310-FARM (3276) to report it.



DOCKING AND MOORING AT BUFFALO LAKE

What You Need To Do

Alberta Environment and Protection now has permitting requirements before you place seasonal docks and mooring structures in Alberta Lakes.

Alberta Environment has informed the County of Stettler, that they require the County's permission, prior to Alberta Environment granting Docking and Mooring permits to County of Stettler landowners at Buffalo Lake.

You need the County of Stettler application to be approved by us, and then attached to your Alberta Environment DOCK TFA Application Form which you will submit to Alberta Environment, prior to Alberta Environment considering your application.

Steps for obtaining your permit

Go to www.StettlerCounty.ca. Click on Docking and Mooring at Buffalo Lake - Applications and Information. Follow the steps and the links to the documents.

1. Apply for an Alberta Environment Client ID - we recommend you do this right away! (you will need to receive this ID number in order to complete Alberta Environment's DOCK TFA Application below).
2. Read the Docking and Mooring Standards Fact Sheet (link on our website)
3. Read the Docking and Mooring Disturbance Standards (link on our website)
4. Fill out your County of Stettler 2022 Docking and Mooring Application and submit this application to the County of Stettler for approval.



5. After you receive an approval letter from the County of Stettler Planning Services Department, attach your County of Stettler approval to your Alberta Environment DOCK TFA APPLICATION FORM and submit this to Alberta Environment.

Alberta Environment will review and if everything is in order, they will then provide you with a permit allowing Docking and Mooring in Buffalo Lake.

Questions for the County of Stettler?
Email: jdonovan@stettlercounty.ca or rfitzgerald@stettlercounty.ca.

The County of Stettler has respectfully requested Alberta Environment remove us from this responsibility of providing you with an approval prior to you

seeking their approval, however due to the unique nature of how Buffalo Lake lands are zoned, Alberta Environment currently requires us to be involved.

The County of Stettler will continue to lobby to have this anomaly at Buffalo Lake corrected, removing us from the responsibility of approving these applications prior to Alberta Environment receiving them. Read more about our lobbying efforts on this subject on page 24.



WEED OF THE MONTH

Common Tansy

Common Tansy is a noxious weed that has been spotted throughout Alberta, and has established dense populations in central/southern Alberta.

Originally introduced from Europe in the 1600's, Common Tansy was brought to North America for its medicinal and food uses. It commonly grows along roadsides, water bodies, fields and pastures, disturbed areas, and urban areas. Common Tansy forms thick stands, which once established can take over native grass stands.

Common Tansy is a problem because it can grow in a wide variety of habitats and thrives in low nutrient soil where other plants are unable to grow. Each flower head can produce hundreds of seeds, which can remain viable in the soil up to 25 years. The plant can also reproduce by short, shallow roots called rhizomes, which limits the effectiveness of cultivation to control Common Tansy. Common Tansy is avoided by cattle and decreases plant diversity, and if left unchecked will decrease the amount of forage available for grazing. Dense areas of the plant can increase

the amount of bare soil in an area as they do not provide good ground cover.

This plant grows up to 1.5 m tall and the stems are branched, erect and often purplish red. The leaves alternate up the stem and are deeply divided into numerous narrow, individual leaflets with toothed edges. The flowers are easily identified. Each stem will have many yellow button-like flowers growing in dense flat clusters at the top of each stem.

Several methods are available to control this weed. Regular mowing to prevent seed set will reduce the population over time, but must be repeated in order to reduce seed bank. Several herbicide options are also available which can be sprayed before flowers develop. Once a flower has developed on the plant, the flower head must be cut and bagged in order to prevent seed bank increases.

Once this invasive ornamental starts to spread it can be very difficult to contain, so contact your local Agricultural Fieldman if you think you've spotted it.

Mark your Calendars

Saturday, August 13 the VIP Farm Tours are back along with the Stettler Board of Trade 2022 Taste of the Heartland - Long Table Dinner event. Watch for ticket sale information beginning the end of May at tasteoftheheartland.ca.

STETTLER REGIONAL BOARD OF TRADE

Benefits for Farm Families to Become Members

Stettler Regional Board of Trade and Community Development assists in promoting and improving trade, commerce and tourism within the Stettler Region.

SAVE

Members of the Stettler Board of Trade benefit from discounts on gas, couriers, insurance, banking, business services and Chambers Plan - an affordable and stable group benefit program.

PROMOTE

Partnering with businesses, Stettler Board of Trade shares and helps grow business opportunities within the region and beyond.

CONNECT AND LEARN

Members have full access to networking mixers, business to business opportunities and information relevant to local issues year round.

INFLUENCE

The Stettler Board of Trade is a member of both the Alberta and Canadian Chamber of Commerce, representing your voice at government level.

Membership with the Stettler Board of Trade is a minimal investment that is beneficial to your bottom dollar while keeping business operational and offering potential for growth.

INSURANCE

The Chambers Plan is a 'pooled plan'. Health and dental claims are 'pooled' with thousands of other companies to provide rate stability. Chambers Plan is a 'not for profit' program. All of the profits stay in the plan to help lower premiums.

It includes: Extended Health Care; Critical Illness; Best Doctors access; Dental Care; Disability Coverage; Accidental Death & Dismemberment.

Contact your Stettler Board of Trade for details on becoming a member and the benefits it can provide to you and your agricultural operations. Call 403-742-3181.



Community Mapping Project

Do you know of an area in the County of Stettler where a historical event may have happened? ...

... a site that is unmarked that has significance within the County of Stettler?

We want to record all these stories, and or points of interest from history before they are lost forever.

Each submission will be plotted into GIS and mapped with its location being marked. The map will be available for viewing on the County of Stettler website once it is complete.

Everyone who makes a submission between May 1-September 30, 2022 will be entered into our prize draw!

Send your entry to: communitymapping@stettlercounty.ca

A random draw will be made of all entries received to award prizes.

For more info: 403-742-4441 | stettlercounty.ca

PUT STETTLE COUNTY HISTORY ON THE MAP

Do you know of an area in the County of Stettler where a historical event may have happened? Or a site that is unmarked that has significance within the County of Stettler; perhaps an underground tunnel entrance or the site where a train was robbed? We are trying to record all these stories, and or points of interest from history into our GIS system and onto our maps, so that we have a record of these events and locations for generations to come before they are lost forever.

We would like you to enter our contest by helping us identify our community assets by providing information and photos on sites that you know about that many others have no idea exist within the County of Stettler.

Each submission will be plotted into GIS and mapped with each location being marked. The map will be available for viewing on the County of Stettler website www.StettlerCounty.ca once it is complete.

Our contest will be open May 1 to September 30, 2022. Submissions will be judged on significance to the County of Stettler, quality of information and uniqueness. Entries can be sent to communitymapping@stettlercounty.ca.

Reach out to those family members or neighbors that have told you stories in the past and help us put Stettler County history on the map.

DEVELOPMENT SETBACKS

Please remember that you do not need a development permit from the County for agricultural operations 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 in the County of Stettler, please call and set up an appointment with the County's Planning & Development Department at 403-742-4441.

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NO PERMIT? ZERO TOLERANCE

Please contact our Planning and Development Department by setting up an appointment at 403-742-4441, 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 or \$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.



EMERGENCY: ARE YOU PROPERLY PREPARED?

For every \$1 you spend on emergency mitigation and preparedness, you'll save \$6 on response.

Being prepared means you know what to do, where to go, and you have supplies to properly respond to emergencies and disasters. By taking some simple steps towards becoming more prepared, you can better navigate disruptions when they occur.

When we are prepared to take care of our own needs for a minimum of 72 hours, it allows first responders and all levels of government to focus on managing the crisis and helping those who need it most.

Will you be ready in an emergency?

When dangerous situations arise, it's important to act quickly. Having an emergency kit can help reduce the stress of making important decisions in urgent situations.

For farms and agricultural producers there is a longer list to consider which will include having a plan for livestock. These plans should include a current list of all animals including records of feed, vaccinations and tests; supplies to temporarily identify animals including plastic neckbands or permanent markers to label large animals with your name, and phone number; first aid kits; halters,

cages, blankets and bolt cutters; and water, feed and buckets to name a few considerations.

Know when to stay or go

Depending on the situation, you may be instructed by authorities to shelter in place or to evacuate.

- If authorities direct you to shelter, follow all instructions and tune into your news source for updates. These situations can last a few hours or a few days. If possible, it is a good idea to keep enough supplies on hand to last a minimum of 14 days.
- When an Evacuation Order is issued, you must leave immediately. Authorities will not direct you to leave unless they have reason to believe that you are in danger.

Get ready by building a kit

Choose bins, backpacks or rolling suitcases and fill them with supplies to last several days. Store them in a place where you can grab them quickly and easily.

For more information on emergency preparedness for your family or agriculture/farming operation, please contact the Director of Emergency Management for the Stettler Regional Emergency Management Agency, Clint Simes, at 403-742-4441 x164.

HERE'S WHAT TO PACK

Food and water

- Water (4L per person per day)
- Non-perishable food with high protein
- Trail mix/dried fruit
- Crackers and cereals
- Canned meat, fish and beans
- Canned/boxed juice

Clothing and bedding

- Change(s) of clothing appropriate for the season
- Extra undergarments and socks
- Raincoat, poncho, jacket
- Spare shoes
- Sleeping bag, blanket or emergency heat blanket

Light and fuel

- Battery-powered or crank flashlights/lamps
- Candles with candleholder
- Lighter
- Waterproof matches

Equipment

- Manual can opener
- Dishes and utensils
- Battery-powered or crank radio
- Extra batteries
- Pen and paper
- Pocket knife
- Duct tape
- Whistle
- Cell phone
- Extra charging cables and batteries
- Multi-tool and work gloves
- Personal Supplies and Medication
- First-aid kit
- Personal hygiene supplies
- Tissue paper, toilet paper, and paper towels
- Over-the-counter medications and prescription
- Copies of prescriptions
- Back-up pair(s) of prescription glasses
- Pet food and supplies (including toys)
- Liquid detergent and soap
- Plastic wrap, aluminum foil, re-sealable bags
- Garbage and recycle bags
- Hand sanitizer and wipes
- Disposable dust and non-medical masks
- Sunscreen and bug spray

Documents and identification

- Personal identification
- Copies of birth and marriage certificate, will, passports, citizenship papers
- Insurance policies
- Cash (small bills and change)
- Credit card information
- Copy of your emergency plan
- Contact list
- Personal items, if time allows (photos, computers, hard drive, heirlooms, etc.)

Distraction and comfort items

- Small toys and stuffed animals
- Playing cards and games
- Reading material
- Activity books and crossword puzzles
- Colouring books and markers
- Charging cords for electronic devices
- Notebook and pen
- Family photos

When you build your kit, consider additional needs such as:

- Pregnant or breastfeeding
- Infants and small children
- Mobility
- Cultural, religious, spiritual
- Severe allergies or dietary restrictions
- Chronic medical conditions and medical equipment with back up power (talk to your healthcare professional for advice)

Make a mini kit

Being prepared can take the inconvenience out of unexpected situations. A mini kit that goes where you go can help to keep you prepared for whatever comes your way. Items to consider including:

- Small amount of cash
- Hand sanitizer and extra non-medical mask
- Bus tickets
- Phone charger
- Package of wipes/tissues
- Painkillers and back up medication

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FIRST RESPONDER MENTAL HEALTH

The Alberta Municipal Health and Safety Association is hosting free sessions for rural first responders.

The Alberta Municipal Health and Safety Association (AMHSA) is hosting a free program to support Alberta's rural first responders. This program is designed for both professional and volunteer first responders to address post-traumatic stress injuries. It is open only to those who work in fire stations registered in rural and remote municipalities in Alberta.

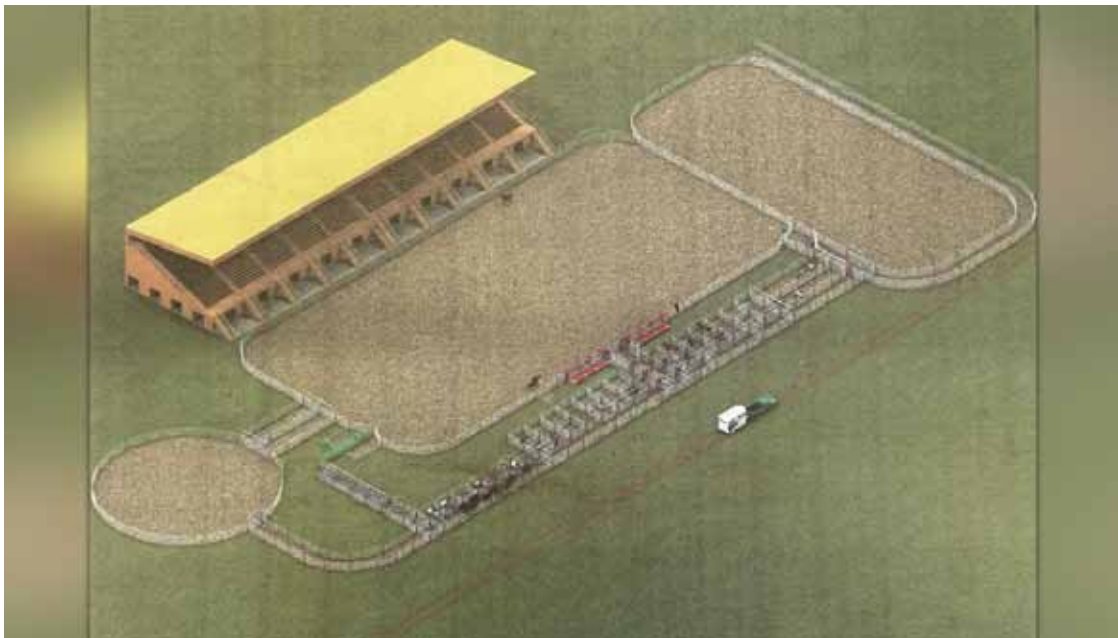
The sessions provide seven hours of training over two days through virtual sessions. The current available dates are:

- July 12, 1:00 - 4:00 pm and July 13, 8:00 am - 12:00 pm
- August 16, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm and August 17, 8:00 am - 12:00 pm
- September 8, 1:00 - 4:00 pm and September 9, 8:00 am - 12:00 pm
- September 13, 1:00 - 4:00 pm and September 14, 8:00 am - 12:00 pm
- September 21, 1:00 - 4:00 pm and September 22, 8:00 am - 12:00 pm
- September 27, 1:00 - 4:00 pm and September 28, 8:00 am - 12:00 pm

For more information contact:

Warren Noga, Policy Advisor 780.955.4079 warren@RMAAlberta.com

Wyatt Skovron, Manager of Policy & Advocacy 780.955.4096 wyatt@RMAAlberta.com



STETTLER AG SOCIETY LEGACY PROJECT: 115 YEARS OF HISTORY

Improving their facility.

With more and more people looking to book events in rural areas of Alberta, the Stettler Agricultural Society found they were unable to accommodate such events with the lack of infrastructure and limitations to their outdoor facilities.

By improving and upgrading the outdoor arena to provide a double arena set up, fully serviced camping spots, outdoor showers, washrooms & provide green space for people to picnic and walk their dogs, they will be able to bring more patrons to the facility, and in turn will bring more people into our community.

Stettler Agricultural Society (SAS) runs a very successful outdoor/indoor farmers market that will also benefit from the outdoor grounds space upgrade. Impacts on the community from this project include:

- More traffic into our community, eating at local restaurants, staying at hotels, shopping on main street
- 70% of the events held are for rural youth involved in rodeo, livestock and equestrian sports

How can I contribute?

Become a Legacy Project Donor: The impact that you will make by becoming a donor to this project is insurmountable. The Stettler Ag Society plans to create a monument to the north of the new arena, in front of the grandstands where they will recognize every donor who helped to build and improve this facility for our community.

The Legacy Project.

SAS has kicked off their fundraising campaign for this outdoor facility upgrade: The Legacy Project. The Legacy Project is your opportunity to leave your mark. Purchase a panel for \$500, either in memory of a loved one, or as a community member. SAS will place a plaque in your honour at the new monument directly in front of the grandstands. As they start to erect the new outdoor arena they are wanting to reflect back on their 115 year history. They would love to hear your stories about a visit to one of the SAS Pro Rodeo's back in the day. To become a donor please email Stettler Ag Society at stettleragsociety1907@gmail.com or call 403-742-6288.



STRATEGIC PLANS

2022-2025 Strategic Plan

Council has set the 2022-2025 Strategic Plan, which maps out municipal priorities, and it is available for viewing on our website under BUDGET.

Council will be solidifying the 2022 Tax Rate Bylaw at their Regular Council Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, May 11, 2022. Beginning in June, we will be coming back out to the public with survey's and information, to seek your input on municipal priorities for 2023, as we begin planning the 2023 Budget.

Please watch our website at www.StettlerCounty.ca for opportunities to provide us with your input on how dollars and cents are saved and spent, as we begin to plan for the years ahead.

This is an important municipal process that Council invites you to participate in each year.

We hope you will participate.

Treated Wood Waste

We're Changing How It's Managed!

What is the Change?

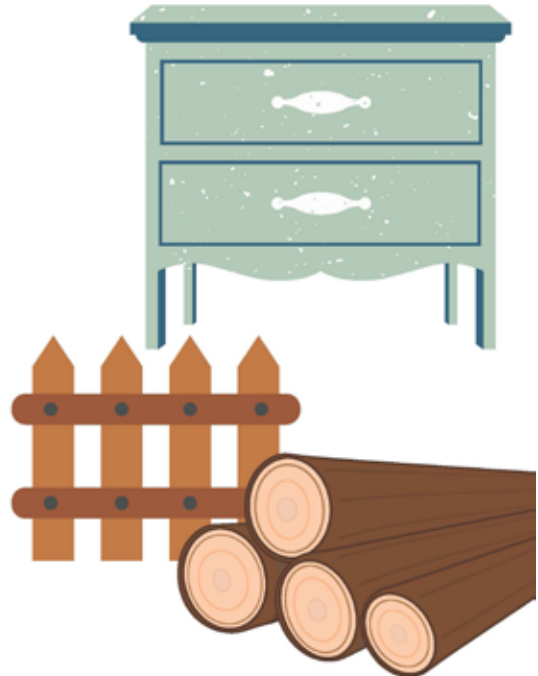
We will no longer burn treated wood at the Stettler Transfer Site, beginning **May 1, 2022**. Instead, you will place it in the "Treated Wood" bin at the Stettler Transfer Site. The bin will be transported to the Stettler Regional Landfill for responsible disposal.

Why?

Burning treated wood puts numerous toxic chemicals into our air and in the ashes that fall onto our soil. Alberta regulations prohibit the burning of treated woods.

What is "Treated Wood?"

Wood with any form of preservative such as paint, varnish, or preservative and any wood that has been processed (plywood, particle board, etc.)



What Can I Put in the Bin?

The Transfer Site collection bin is for smaller amounts of treated wood. Residents and businesses with large loads are asked to take their treated wood directly to the Stettler Regional Landfill.

Burn Pits

Tree Branches
Untreated Wood



Painted/Varnished Wood
Wood Treated with Preservatives
Plywood
Particle Board





AVIAN INFLUENZA

Bird Flu

Avian influenza, known as “bird flu,” is a viral infection that spreads easily and quickly among birds. Parts of North America, Europe, Asia and Africa are currently seeing bird flu outbreaks.

Your small flocks and pet birds could be at risk of catching bird flu when wild birds migrate to and through Canada in the spring and fall months, as wild birds naturally carry influenza viruses.

Now is the time to review your preventative measures to keep your birds healthy, especially if you have a chicken coop or keep pet birds outside. Simple, inexpensive practices can be very effective at keeping this serious disease away from your birds.

How your flock can get sick.

Bird flu can be carried by wild birds. Wild birds such as ducks and geese can carry diseases, including bird flu, without looking sick. If these birds

come in direct or close contact with your chickens or pet birds, in particular if they have access to the outdoors and ponds or bodies of water, the disease can be passed onto them. There is no treatment for birds that become infected with the disease.

Chickens and hobby flocks as pet birds can also be infected. On rare occasions, some subtypes of the virus can cause illness in humans. Health Canada has more information about human health issues related to bird flu.

Learn more about bird flu and pets.

Signs of bird flu.

Infected birds may show one or many of these signs:

- lack of energy, movement or appetite
- decreased egg production
- swelling around the head, neck and eyes
- coughing, gasping for air or sneezing



- nervous signs, tremors or lack of coordination
- diarrhea
- sudden death

You can help protect your birds by following these 5 basic rules:

1. Prevent contact with wild birds and other animals
2. Frequently clean poultry coops, waterers, feeders, your clothing and your boots
3. Spot the signs and report early
4. Limit exposure to visitors
5. Keep new birds separate when entering your flock
6. Learn more about preventing and detecting bird flu in small flocks and pet birds.

If you think your birds are infected

Bird owners are legally responsible to notify authorities of serious bird diseases such as bird flu. Call a veterinarian or your nearest Canadian

Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) Animal Health office if you suspect your birds have bird flu.

Find out what to expect if your animals are infected.

If you spot a sick or dead wild bird

Anyone who finds a sick or dead wild bird is encouraged to contact the Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative (CWHC).

Be prepared to submit details like where you found the bird or discuss options for carcass submission to allow them to gather information about the health of wild populations.

Report sick or dead wild birds to CWHC.

WHAT'S BREWING WITH ADVOCACY EFFORTS

Reclamation Certificates

The County of Stettler has 13 parcels of land which require a reclamation certificate from a Provincial Inspector. We were informed previously there were two inspectors in the entire province (1 southern/1 northern). We have more recently been informed there is now one inspector with no plans for replacement of the second.

We have been informed Alberta Environment is currently processing reclamations certificates at a rate of two certificates per year. That includes both Municipal and Private Industry (LaFarge), with priority being given to projects earmarked for economic development. Meaning the County of Stettler is facing a very extended timeline (5-10 more years) to receive any reclamation certificates.

The County of Stettler has previously contracted independent third party's to provide reclamation certificates, and been informed Alberta Environment would not accept an independent third part reclamation certificate. We were also previously informed in 2020 that our file was 35/41 in the non-economic stimulus queue and an anticipated date to begin our review was January 2022.

We are currently lobbying for an alternative solution to a 5-10 year wait for a reclamation certificate.

Boehlke's Pond

In December 2020 Alberta Environment informed the County of Stettler that fisheries and water management staff would be pleased to meet with

us to discuss future options for repairing Boehlke's Pond, including the potential opportunity to restock and re-establish recreational fishing. We, and our surrounding municipalities are in favor of pursuing the restoration of this recreational area and with Alberta Environment's continued support wish to restore a recreational opportunity for all those who live and recreate in east central Alberta. We are seeking Alberta Environment's renewed commitment to this important project along with a plan and timeline.

Buffalo Lake and the Disturbance Standard for Temporary Seasonal Docks

Buffalo Lake is the only lake in Alberta with a provincial Right of Way encompassing the boundary, followed by a Municipal Reserve/ Environmental Reserve which is the municipality's responsibility. In effect this anomaly on Buffalo Lake makes our Province the 'waterfront owner', which then in turn makes our Municipality – and other municipalities on Buffalo Lake, 'semi-waterfront' owners, which then in turn makes almost every lake lot on Buffalo Lake a 'back lot' owner.

As 'backlot owners' landowners are all individually required to apply for TFA's with Alberta Environment AND with our municipality. As a result, we could both see 100's of applications. Alberta Environment representatives have indicated they have no firm way of accurately tracking the locations of approved permits leaving the door open to increased conflict and risk of 'double approving' a site for more than one dock/lift.

24 Hour Environmental Response Line

1-800-222-6514

Call from outside Alberta: 780 422-4505



If you have information about a spill, release or emergency that could damage the environment, call 1-800-222-6514, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Every suspected violation that comes to the attention of Alberta Environment and Parks will be assessed and responded to in an appropriate and timely manner. Remember, all Albertans have a role to play in ensuring our environmental and natural resources are protected. Know the rules, know your responsibility and know when to report.

For More Information

For more information contact the Alberta Environment and Parks Information Centre:

- Toll free in Alberta: 310-3773
- <https://www.alberta.ca/energy-and-environmental-response-line.aspx>



From what we understand, the intent of the policy, and the way it works out on almost every other lake in our province, is that semi-waterfront owners own the vast majority of docks, which limits the permitting and placing conflicts, which may arise.

We have respectfully request that this policy be amended to correct the anomaly of Buffalo Lake, to include that on Buffalo Lake the Right of Way and the Environmental Reserve/Municipal Reserve be treated as one owner. This would reduce both the applications and staff time for Alberta Environment and the municipalities on Buffalo Lake, as well as reducing regulatory oversight for all levels, and align this policy with the intent in which we believe it was intended for all Albertans.

As municipal government, there is an expectation from our citizens and ratepayers that we investigate and follow up on concerns that are brought forward to us.

We have sought and continue to seek support from Alberta Environment in cases of environmental concern which have included ditching and draining

wetlands, illegal approaches, and disturbance or construction in sensitive environmental areas.

In order for us to support our citizens, we need Alberta Environment's support and timely reaction and have asked the Province to strengthen this department of government to more quickly respond to sensitive environmental issues which will assist us in supporting your mandates.

Alberta Environment has provided citizens with a 24 Hour Environmental Response line: 1-800-222-6514.

Stettler District Ambulance Contract with AHS

Check out the Reeve's Ramblings on page 3 to read about advocacy efforts with Alberta Health Services as we attempt to renegotiate our Ambulance contract.



ACCESS TO RELIABLE INFORMATION @SPL

Access to Reliable Information (and so much more) at the Stettler Public Library

With so much information and misinformation available at the click of a mouse or swipe of the mobile screen, it can be hard to separate the wheat from the chaff when it comes to information you can trust. If you need information to combat your uncle's assertions at family gatherings this summer, give us a shout. We can help you find reliable information that you can use to learn more about whatever issue is vexing you.

When you find information and you are not sure whether to trust it, ask yourself, who wrote it? Are they an expert in the field? What qualifies this person to write on the topic? Do other experts in the field back up this information? Is the writer

presenting facts, or opinions dressed up as facts? Are they trying to sell you a solution? Are you able to verify the facts elsewhere such as on multiple official websites (news, government, organizations and institutes)? When was the information originally published? Has the information contained in it been debunked? Does the URL look correct, or is someone trying to imitate an official web site? If you are not sure, stop in to the library. We can help you find good sources.

FREE MEMBERSHIPS

Have you been at the Stettler Public Library lately? If not, stop by to sign up for a free membership and learn about all of the resources that you will be able to access.

We have everything from video games and graphic novels, to newspapers from around the world,



and all the books you can handle on any topic under the sun. If you are looking for something we don't have we can bring it in from another library for you. Ask us about our interlibrary loan services.

FUN PROGRAMS FOR ALL AGES

We also offer great programs for all ages. This spring we have something for everyone! For adults we have general information sessions on a variety of topics, crafting, book clubs, genealogy, writing clubs, game nights and more. Do you have ideas for a program? We would love to hear about it.

Teens and 'tweens will find something cool to do on Thursday evenings at 6 p.m. For children ages 6 and up we have Something Cool after School on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 4 p.m., and Brain Train on Saturdays at 10:30 a.m. or 12 p.m. For the little ones we have Read and Rhyme on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 10:30 a.m.

With the warmer weather we are back at the Farmer's Market at the Ag Society on Tuesdays from 4-7 p.m. Stop by our table and check out some of our resources. We can sign you up for a free membership at the Market so that you can access the eLibrary right away. We are also getting ready for Summer Reading Club. There are going to be some awesome prizes and lots of fun activities too. You won't want to miss it. Stay tuned for more information, and follow us on Facebook @StettlerPublicLibrary.

We look forward to seeing you at the library this spring, if you have any questions about services give us a call at 403-742-2292 or drop in for a tour.

Submitted by Stettler Public Library.

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.



RECYCLE IT - SAY NO TO BURNING BARRELS

All garbage releases toxic chemicals when burned.
Even paper.

Well, that explains my indigestion.



If you're making fire, you're making poison.

The garbage you burn releases dioxins that settle in the food we eat.

And believe me, you don't want this garbage inside you.



If you're making fire, you're making poison.

COMMUNITY NEWS



2022 Pheasant Festival October 14-16, 2022

Registration is open for the 2022 Pheasant Festival.

Hunt. Volunteer. Sponsor.

Visit www.stettlerpheasantfestival.com

Willow Canyon Drive-In Movie

FEATURING...

Spiderman - No Way Home
Saturday, May 28, 2022
Movie starts at dusk

Ghostbusters - Afterlife
Saturday, August 27, 2022
Movie starts at dusk



NEW 20x40ft inflatable outdoor movie screen (sponsored by: Community Futures East Parkland)

TICKET

Location: Willow Canyon (formerly Donalda Ski Hill)
Cost: \$10.00/person or \$25.00 per car load (cash only)
Full Concession: Buttered Popcorn, Hot Dogs, Drinks & Candy

Gates & Concession opens at **7:00pm**.
Come early for kids outdoor games & treasure hunt.
Explore DONALDA before the movie

Contact: 403-888-2943 Email: donaldapromosociety@gmail.com



5th Annual 'Walk and Roll' May 1- August 31, 2022

Leave your cars at home, Stettler - it's time for the 5th Annual Walk 'n' Roll challenge! Stettler is in a friendly competition with Rocky Mountain House and Wainwright (2021 Champs).

If you are walking or biking to a destination, please log your trip at www.stettler.net. This challenge is not about walking or biking for pure exercise, it's about choosing not to drive somewhere and using walking or biking as your method of transportation. Our best year we logged in 23,000 trips in Stettler. Challenge your co-workers and fellow businesses to join in this year's challenge and help Stettler capture bragging rights for the 2022 Walk and Roll Challenge!

COMMUNITY EVENTS

2nd Annual East Bound and Down Poker Rally

Enter your car in the event to build the best poker hand between Camrose and Big Valley. Seven stops between Camrose and Big Valley. \$20 per poker hand.

All proceeds donated to Kids with Cancer Society.

Call 587-282-8273 for more information.

Stettler Health Services Foundation Charity Golf Tournament Saturday, June 18

Registration at Stettler Golf and Country Club; Stettler Hospital Admin Office; stettlerhealthfoundation.ca/golf

\$80/Golfer (\$25 tax receipt provided)
18 holes of golf, hole prizes, supper, team costumes (80's Fitness Theme) and a 'hole' lot of fun!

Proceed will go towards the next Stettler Hospital Project.

EVERY
TUESDAY
4 - 7 PM



MAKE IT
BAKE IT
GROW IT

Our market season starts Tuesday, May 3rd and runs until October 4th, 2022.

To become a vendor visit our website: www.stettleragsociety.com

STETTLER AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY
4516-52ND STREET, STETTLER, AB, T0C 2L0
403-742-6288 | STETTLERAGSOCIETY1907@GMAIL.COM



Public Mail Agreement #41398593
Return Undeliverable Canadian Addresses to:
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Stettler, AB T0C 2L0