Thorhild County considering tighter rules on community standards

Thorhild County is changing its Community Standards bylaw to enable additional enforcement in three areas: property maintenance, street maintenance and debris on county property.

During its April 23 meeting council gave first reading to a proposed revised Community Standards Bylaw which included penalties for breach of the new standards.

Under Property Maintenance, the specification that unsightly properties would be addressed only in hamlets was removed. That would allow County Community Peace Officers (CPOs) to address unsightliness premises throughout the county, not just in the hamlets.

Reeve Kevin Gummere said he was glad to see that change. “There are some acreages where collectors have stuff piled high and emergency responders find it difficult to get in,” he said. “It’s unsafe, a fire hazard.”

Coun. Richard Filipchuk agreed, saying he saw that change. “There are some acreages throughout the county, not just in the hamlets. CPOs to address unsightly premises would allow County Community Peace Officers (CPOs) to address unsightliness premises throughout the county, not just in the hamlets.”

When coun. Cheryl Pasay asked what criteria would be used to determine if material is considered debris, Berlinguette said that would be done by size of the material.

Penalties for breach of the roadway and right-of-way sections of the bylaw are $125 for a first offence and $125 for a second offence, doubling for subsequent offences to a maximum of $250.

Unsightly property penalties remained at $150 for a first offence and $300 for a second offence and double for subsequent offences to a maximum of $10,000.

Workers began setting windows into the Diamond Spring Lodge expansion wing late last week in Redwater.
Kyla Melnyk shares the story behind the findings of some very special rocks with the grade 3 class at Thorhild Central school. Some of the rocks she displayed and spoke about included a volcanic rock from Maui, Hawaii; Serpentinite from the Yukon; various rocks from the black Sea by the Ukraine; Siltstone Bedrock with limestone from Fort McMurray and Quartz crystal from Africa. The grade three class greatly enjoyed her presentation. Ivy Jamieson, her niece, also told her stories about her special rocks.
Local voter turnout higher than provincial count

Local ridings had stronger voter turnout than the provincial total during the April 16 election which chose three United Conservative Party (UCP) MLAs as representatives.

Across the province voter turnout totalled 64 percent, while in the three constituencies serving local counties voter turnout ranged from 65 to 69.5 percent.

Morrison-St. Albert voters elected Dale Nally by giving him 50 percent (13,435) of the votes. This was the closest race in the three ridings, as NDP candidate Natalie Binnie received 33 percent (8,908) of the votes. The remaining 17 percent of the votes were divided among the the Alberta, Green, Alberta Advantage and Alberta Independent parties.

This riding had 38,909 registered voters of whom 26,865 cast valid ballots. There were 223 spoiled, declined or rejected ballots. Voter turnout totalled 69.5 percent.

“I think it shows that the last election was an anti PC (Progressive Conservative) vote,” said Redwater mayor Mel Smith of the large voter turnout. “The voters chose to return to the conservative beliefs. Our region is oil and gas, both production and value added in the Heartland.”

In Athabasca-Barhead-Westlock Glenn van Dijk won with 68.5 percent (16,822) of the votes. In distant second was NDP Therese Taschuk with 19.5 percent (4,786) of the vote. An independent candidate and the Alberta and Alberta Independent parties split the other 12 percent of the votes. There were 25,805 valid ballots cast, 434 spoiled, declined or rejected ballots. Voter turnout totalled 66 percent.

“People wanted to get out and be counted,” said Thorhild County reeve Kevin Grumetsa.

The province’s 64 percent voter turnout was well above the 56 percent turnout in 2015 and the highest voter turnout since 1982’s 66 percent.

Local Air Quality News Update

Portable Station Moving to Chipman

Our portable air monitoring station in Bon Accord ceased operations February 27 and will begin operating in Chipman in May. A summary report on air monitoring data collected during the nine months the station was in Bon Accord will be made public once it is completed.

AGM and Presentations

Join us on Monday, May 13 in the Lion Prides Room at the Dow Centennial Centre in Fort Saskatchewan starting at 6:00 p.m. for our Annual General Meeting. We’ll be sharing 2018 ambient air quality monitoring results for the Airshed plus discussing a special Data Trending and Comparison Report we will be releasing at the meeting. There will be door prizes, giveaways, food and refreshments.

Air Monitoring Information

We recently released our Q1 2019 Air Quality Health Index (AQHI) results which show low risk AQHI readings between 73% and 89% of the time for the seven FAP stations that are used to calculate AQHI numbers for the region.
MLA Nally appointed associate minister of natural gas

Morinville-St. Albert MLA Dale Nally is Alberta’s Associate Minister of Natural Gas. He was named to that portfolio when Alberta Premier Jason Kenney announced his cabinet on April 30.

In that position Nally will work to ensure Albertans receive the full value for their natural resources and fight for more market access for Canada’s liquid natural gases to displace carbon intense sources of energy around the world.

“On behalf of Sturgeon County, I would like to offer my sincerest congratulations to Minister Nally on his appointment to Associate Minister of Natural Gas; you have our full support,” said Sturgeon County mayor Alanna Hnatiw. “Natural Gas is an important resource for Alberta, and this is an important time for the Government of Alberta to be involved in the future of natural gas based on our infrastructure and the global market.”

“I think our Premier made a very good choice,” said Redwater mayor Mel Smith. “Dale Nally will be a fantastic advocate for Alberta’s Industrial Heartland. I know he is excited about getting involved.”

Nally was elected with 50 percent of the votes cast by Morinville-St. Albert voters.

According to the MLA biography posted on the provincial government website, Nally has decades of private sector experience managing and leading business units that generate between 50 million and 80 million dollars in revenue. He has a Masters Degree in Education.

Nally was a co-chair for Diversity Edmonton which was a volunteer organization that worked with business to promote the hiring of people with disabilities. He is an active volunteer within his community and assists on and off the ice with his child’s hockey.

Nally did not respond to a request for comment on the appointment before press time.

Orest Romanchuk
January 1, 1940 – April 20, 2019

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Orest Romanchuk on April 20, 2019, surrounded by his family, at the age of 79 years. He will be lovingly remembered by his wife of 47 years, Sylvia; his children, Karen and Shelley (Chris); and granddaughter, Shayna. To honor his request, there will be no memorial service. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation in memory of Orest to the Canadian Diabetes Association.

Arrangements entrusted to the care of STURGEON MEMORIAL FUNERAL CHAPEL (780) 921-3900.
Although last week’s rain and snow are helping to green things up, at this time Smoky Lake County has a fire restriction and Thorhild County a fire advisory in place. Sturgeon County did not set a formal advisory, but residents are urged to be aware of conditions and use fire safely.

Smoky Lake set the fire restriction April 29. County Fire Chief Scott Franchuk advised the fire hazard is high, so the county will not be issuing burn permits till further notice. He recommended that all fires ignited under previously issued burn permits be checked to ensure they are extinguished and do not cause a spring grass fire.

Fire pits, warming fires, barbecues and burn barrels are allowed but must be supervised to ensure that they do not cause a secondary fire.

The Thorhild County fire advisory was set April 15. Moderate fire risk exists, but CAO Wayne Franklin said that is not always indicated on the signs posted along major roads entering the county. He said staff set the markers to moderate risk and then unknown persons move them back to low risk.

Sturgeon County fire chief Pat Mahoney said conditions throughout the county were dry or drying up until the recent precipitation which should assist in things beginning to green up. “At this point we are continuing to monitor conditions, speaking with neighboring municipalities and provincial officials,” said Mahoney. “Currently there are no advisories, restrictions or bans in place. Certainly, as conditions change, any one of these could be considered. For those residents who have active permits and those enjoying back yard fire pits, as always they are asked to follow permit conditions, be safe and aware of conditions around them.”
Residents in the hamlet of Long Lake will pay slightly less this year for the maintenance of the community’s block wells although one Thorhild County councillor wanted the amount reduced significantly more.

Council passed the annual special levy bylaw for the maintenance of the Long Lake community block wells with the 2019 levy set to collect a total of $71,600. Coun. Wayne Crosswell was the only one to vote in opposition of the bylaw. During the last two years the levy was set to collect a total of $73,800. The levy is collected with 75 percent of its total paid by residents who are connected to the block wells (92 properties pay $584 per year) and the remaining 25 percent paid by residents who are not connected to the wells (103 properties pay $174 per year). During 2017 and 2018 the amounts per property were $602 and $179.

“At $71,600 we are anticipating full recovery of 2019 costs,” said CAO Wayne Franklin. Last year block well maintenance costs exceeded levy revenues by $823. In 2017 levy revenues were $14,940 greater than expenses, so that amount was transferred to the utility reserve. Crosswell argued both this year and last year that the levy should be reduced by the $14,940 not spent in 2017 and the property owners’ payments decreased accordingly. Coun. Joyce Pierce said that would be a workable option if a capital rate rider was put in place to build reserves in case of a catastrophic breakdown. Coun. Cheryl Paasuy agreed, noting that additional funds will be needed when a pump breaks down. Funds for maintenance of the block wells have been collected through the tax levy, which must be renewed each year, since 2016. Prior to that a monthly service charge of $20 was charged to residents of Long Lake. County staff had difficulty collecting payment of that fee. The Long Lake block wells have been in place a few decades. Users of the wells have been under an Alberta Health Services boil water advisory since 2011. The county is presently in discussions with the residents of Long Lake to create a viable plan for sourcing potable water.

The county had proposed a regional water line which would transport potable water from Boyle to the hamlet of Long Lake. It is on the back burner because last year residents voted against paying the cost of a water distribution system and service lines up to the private property boundaries. It was estimated to be between $7 million and $7.5 million.

-The Review-
Join us for Mother’s Day Brunch!
Sunday, May 12th
from 11:00am-2:00pm
$21.90 / person, Youth 50% off (ages 5-10), Kids under 4 eat free!
Come out for a round of golf, Moms golf for 50% off all day!
www.smokylakegolf.com

STEAK NIGHT is back!
Friday’s starting May 17th
Join us for a fabulous steak supper catered by Noel’s Catering.
Steak, Buffet Sides, and Dessert for $20!!
*Weekly Drink Specials*

KITCHEN is opening May 1st
We’re having specials all month long to launch the new menu items and promote past favourites.
Weekly Lunch Features run Wed-Sun!

*Food & Drink*
Exploration company shut down did not have gas wells in local area

While Redwater is referred to in the announced ceased operations of the company, it is in regards to a separate legal decision. Trident Exploration Corp. did not have wells in this area when it ceased operations April 30.

Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) External Communications Senior Advisor Shawn Roth advised that while Trident had some assets north of Spruce Grove, the majority were located southeast of Red Deer and east of Whitecourt.

"We are currently working to ensure that the public and the environment are protected and will assess any high risk sites to ensure there are no immediate risks," said Roth. "The AER will pursue all options to ensure that Trident’s infrastructure is transferred to responsible operators, safely decommissioned, or, as a last resort, transferred to the Orphan Well Association.

Many of Trident’s wells were still operating and once transferred to responsible operators can still contribute to royalties, keep Albertans working, and deliver value to our economy."

In an April 30 statement Calgary based Trident announced it ceased operations, terminating 33 employees and 61 contractors and transitioning its 4,700 wells to the AER. Trident stated: "Although we had substantially settled the terms on a financing solution with our primary creditors for an orderly restructuring and sales process, we were unable to secure AER support for a restructuring in a timely fashion. Ultimately, the recent Redwater decision, regulatory uncertainty and a lack of egress has created a treacherous environment for energy investors that dare to risk their capital in Canada.”

Trident’s total estimated abandonment and reclamation obligations are approximately $329 million. The Redwater decision referred to was the 2018 Supreme Court of Canada determination that the AER was not a creditor and that while receivers and trustees are not personally liable for addressing end-of-life obligations, they cannot simply walk away from the environmental obligations of the debtor company they are appointed over. A key point in the ruling was that a receiver or trustee is considered a licensee and must meet regulatory obligations.

Associate Minister of Natural Gas Morinville-St. Albert MLA Dale Nally did not respond to a request for comment before press time.
**OLD!**

$79,900. Call Glenn to view.

**OLD!**

3.4 ACRE HOBBY FARM

6.74 ac nicely set up as a hobby farm & offers: 5 stalls, barns, & livestock quarters. Barn has 1 large, 2 small boxes, & is insulated. 30x40 foot quonset w/20'x16' o/h door. Metal quonset w/20'x14' o/h door, 10 hp air compressor & 2 ton air conditioner. Fence has paddocks & an indoor barn that can be used for storing equipment. Trees & shrubs are in good condition. The property is in the Town of Thorhild & the property is zoned Agricultural. The property is priced to sell for $79,900.

**NEW!**

**OLD!**

4 BEDROOM HOME IN MORIVILLE

Beautify upgraded 3 bdrm home in Sunridge Estates is move in ready. Numerous upgrades over paid in: updated flooring, furnace, HWT, Shingles, siding, windows, doors, & updated bathrooms. Summer getaway or year round 3 bdrm with 2.5 pce bath & large walk in closet on lower level. New 2 large brims & 4 pce bath on upper floor & another large bdrm with a 3 pce bath & large walk in closet in the basement from outside & it is used for storage. Outbuildings include an older double detached garage, pole sheds & large storage sheds. Less than a mile to pavilion & only 1/2 mile to Fort Sask. & North Edmonton make for a great location. For $297,900. Call Heather to view.

**OLD!**

UPGRADED 55 PLUS CONDO IN NORTH EDMONTON

Beautifully upgraded 1 bdrm plus den condo in Shannon's Place. The built in desk is great for those who are over 55 years old. All new flooring & new bathrooms & kitchen. 3+1 bedrooms, 2 full bathrooms, 2 good size bedrooms, 4 piece bathroom & laundry/office. Room to entertain, oversized garage. 40 ac. has a 4 bedrm home with a porch & laundry area on each floor & 2 sitting areas on main floor. Lots of activities for those who like to travel during the winter. For $298,900.

**OLD!**

FARM LAND RE OF WESTLOCK

160 ac of good grain land (37 acres of canola crop this year) with a spring fed pond, 80 ac of good cattle land, & 40 ac of dry land. Between Dagg & Taylorville: There is a small stand of native willow & red willow, & a stand of white spruce, & large poplar. The property is well drained & makes it easy to cultivate. Yardsite has drilled well that was used often & there is a generator for when the power is out. The property has a water system to a fall, & has a large yard. For $260,900. Call Glenn to view.

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**GRAPEVINE**

**MAY 2019**

**FIRE RESTRICTION**

Effective: April 29, 2019 8:00 AM

Smoky Lake County has implemented a Fire Restriction effective 8:00 a.m. April 29, 2019. Smoky Lake County will not be issuing burn permits until further notice. With the dry conditions, cured dry grass becoming more prominent and lack of moisture the fire hazard is high at this time.

It is recommended that all burn permits that were issued be checked, to ensure that they are out and not cause a spring grass fire.

Fire pits, warming fires, barbeques and burn barrels will be allowed but must be supervised to ensure that they do not cause a secondary fire.

For further information please contact the Smoky Lake County, (780) 656-3730.

As conditions change, stay up to date by visiting

[www.albertafirebans.ca](http://www.albertafirebans.ca)

**COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS**

- **Policy Statement No. 02-02-04: Bounty for Pocket Gopher Tails.** -Amended.
- **Policy Statement No. 03-20-04: Safety Clothing and Footwear.** -Amended.
- **Bylaw No. 1343-19:** to levy a service charge against properties in the Hamlet of Bellis, in reference to Bylaw No. 666: Hamlet of Bellis Sewer System. -Passed.

**Donations**

- In kind use of equipment, manpower plus gravel; Smoky Lake Kinette and Kinmen for the playground project.
- FCSS Funding of $1,121.60 for the Town of Smoky Lake FCSS for the Senior Drum Circle -Vilna Outreach Program.
- FCSS Funding of $2,000.00 to Vilna Seniors Recreation Society for Transportation.
- $1,000.00 to Vilna School for the ‘Breakfast for Learning Program’.
- $1,000.00 to Vilna and District Agricultural Society for Vilna Boomtown Days children’s games and activities.
- $200.00 to Smoky Lake Lions Club for the ‘Pet Vahu’ Dog Walk fundraiser through the Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides.
- Silent auction item towards the Smoky Lake H.A.Kostash School Grade 11 Wildlife Class fly fishing trip fund-raiser.

**SPRING CLEANUP PROMOTION**

Smoky Lake County is offering free disposal of appliances for containing Freon at County Landfill Sites for residents from the County and Villages

May 13, 2019 to May 26, 2019

For more information call Dave Franchuk @ 780-650-1800

**Waskatenau**
Saturday 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

**Smoky Lake**
Tuesday 9:00 am to 5:00 pm
Thursday 9:00 am to 5:00 pm
Saturday 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

**Bellis**
Wednesday 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

**Vilna**
Tuesday 9:00 am to 5:00 pm
Saturday 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

**Spedden**
Wednesday 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

**Wishing our farmers a safe seeding season. Please remember to slow down, and drive with caution while passing equipment. Be patient. Be respectful. Be thankful.**

**DID YOU KNOW?**

All signs, whether erected on land or affixed to the exterior of a building require a development permit unless specifically exempted by the Land Use Bylaw!

This includes:
- Freestanding Signs (including along roads and highways)
- Awnings, Canopy and Projecting Signs
- Wall, Fascia and Roof Signs

To apply for a permit, or to answer any questions you may have, please visit

[www.smokylakecounty.ab.ca](http://www.smokylakecounty.ab.ca), or contact Planning & Development Department at 780-656-3730 or

[pl@smokylakecounty.ab.ca](mailto:pl@smokylakecounty.ab.ca)
TAX DEPARTMENT NEWS

Friendly reminder that Smoky Lake County will be sending out Property Tax Notices in the beginning of June. If you have not received your tax notice by June 30th, 2019 please contact our office at 780-655-3730 or cmcmilling@smokylakecounty.ab.ca to have one resent to you.

Assessment Notice

Accurate Assessment Group will be conducting assessment inspections. This year they will be concentrating on Ranges 18 & 19, but may be inspecting in other areas of the County for various reasons.

The Assessors will always identify themselves with a business card.

We want to hear from YOU!

Smoky Lake County is considering drafting an Environmental Reserve (ER) Bylaw, and we are seeking YOUR feedback about what this might look like.

A short survey is now available online and we appreciate your input. Your anonymous feedback will be taken into consideration as we move towards drafting an ER bylaw. Once a draft bylaw has been proposed, a Public Hearing will be held.

Deadline to complete the survey is May 15, 2019.

If you have any further questions or concerns, please contact (780) 655-3730 or pd@smokylakecounty.ab.ca.

The survey can be found online at


2018 ANNUAL REPORT

The 2018 Annual Report will be available soon! Copies will be available for pick up at the Smoky Lake County Main and Public Works Offices or viewed online at www.smokylakecounty.ab.ca

If you would like to receive a copy in the mail please contact Evonne at 780-655-3730 or at esavilevski@smokylakecounty.ab.ca to be added to the mailing list, as the County is no longer automatically mailing copies to all residents.

AGRICULTURE PLASTIC RECYCLING

We are now accepting clean grain and silage bags at the Smoky Lake, Speeden, and Bellis Transfer Stations for future recycling.

Let’s go green and prevent these items from being burned or left in a landfill.

For more information please contact:

Dave Franchuk, Environmental Operations Manager
780-655-3730 or dfranchuk@smokylakecounty.ab.ca

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The 2018 Audited Smoky Lake County Consolidated Financial Statement and the Smoky Lake County Natural Gas Utility Financial Statement are available at the Smoky Lake County Main Office front counter or on line at

www.smokylakecounty.ab.ca

Words of thanks

Smoky Lake County would like to acknowledge the “Thank You” letters received in appreciation of Jocelyn Jaremca’s services as the Hammore Lake Maintenance Contractor.

Thank you

We appreciate all of our contractors who do such a great job!

Be Emergency Ready

Emergency Preparedness Week
May 5-11, 2019

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Provodny Service
Sunday, May 19th, 2019
@ 10:00 AM
St. Pokrova Orthodox Church
Edwina, Alberta
Thorhild County Residents priority registration starts May 15 at 8:30 am and goes until 4:30 pm. You may register for swimming lessons during this time if you have a valid County Resident ID card as you will have to provide the number assigned on your card.

Non-County Residents may register for lessons after June 1.

Registrations are on a first come first served basis with the priority registration time in effect. No registrations will be taken before May 15.

Each child may only be registered for up to 2 sessions during the registration process. Upon successful completion, they may be registered for more.

More information or inquiries please call 780-398-3730. Registrations can be in person, by calling 780-398-3730 or by e-mail pool@thorhildcounty.com.

**THORHILD COUNTY 2% LIQUID STRYCHNINE PROGRAM**

Thorhild County Agricultural Services will be offering 2% Liquid Strychnine for purchase to aid in Richardson Ground Squirrel Control. This is to be used for Richardson Ground Squirrels Only. The applicant must be registered agricultural producer to be eligible for purchase. It is recommended to obtain your Strychnine early, to prevent infestations from occurring.

**STRYCHNINE STOCK IS LIMITED**

Strychnine can be purchased from the Agricultural Services office at $10.00 per 250 ml bottle. Please contact Agricultural Services department at (780) 398-3977 to pre-order and book an appointment for paperwork and product pick-up.

As Strychnine is now being phased out of production, Thorhild County has a secondary bait available for purchase by landowners looking to do Richardson Ground Squirrel Control. Ramik Green is a pellet style bait available with all of the necessary hardware needed for baiting.

**RICHARDSON GROUND SQUIRREL BAITING WITHIN THE HAMLET OF THORHILD**

Please be advised that Thorhild County Agricultural Services staff will be baiting Richardson Ground Squirrels in the next 2-6 weeks. Stations pictured above, will be located around the Hamlet of Thorhild. Please use caution when walking pets and avoid baiting areas. These stations will be anchored into the ground to avoid a tipping hazard.

More information is available at the Agricultural Services office 780-398-3977.

**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

**LABOURERS (2) PUBLIC WORKS**
Term: May 26, 2019 - August 30, 2019

**SUMMER STUDENTS (2) PUBLIC WORKS**
Term: July 2, 2019 - August 30, 2019

**SWIMMING POOL STAFF**
Term: Seasonal

**SUMMER PROGRAM LEADERS (2)**
Term: June 24, 2019 - August 30, 2019 (Tentative)

**SENIORS TRANSPORTATION DRIVER**
Temporary Part Time Immediate

Further details on all positions are on http://www.thorhildcounty.com/Careers Positions will remain open until suitable candidate is hired.

Please forward resumes to: Laurie Andrushchyshyn Payroll & Personnel Manager Thorhild County Box 10, Thorhild, Alberta T0A 3J0 or e-mail laurie.andrushchyshyn@thorhildcounty.com. We thank all applicants, however, only those individuals selected for interviews will be contacted.

**APPLY NOW FOR 2019 DUST CONTROL PROGRAM**

**OPTION 1: OIL BASED**

County Residents: New application of Oil - $1,092 per 100 linear meters
**MAINTENANCE Program - $364 per 100 linear meters**

**OPTION 2: CALCIUM**

County Residents: Calcium - $236.60 per 100 linear meters
Please note: Calcium is less expensive yet, life expectancy of this product is only one (1) season.

In accordance with Policy 935, Dust Control 3 Year Maintenance Program, if your participation in the County’s oil based dust control maintenance program ended in 2018, you must take rejuvenated oil under the MAINTENANCE PROGRAM or you will pay the NEW price in 2019. This will allow you to skip 2020 and 2021 yet, in order to remain in the 3-year program, you must rejuvenate again in 2022. Please call Public Works if you are unsure whether or not you qualify.

County Council has approved a Dust Control Program for the residents along gravel roads. County residents may apply for dust control by going to the Public Works Office (white building with blue trim) located at 21414 TWP RD, 600A (east of the Scolabank) and fill-out a request form with full payment by cash or cheque. If paying by debit or credit card, you will need to fill-out the request form at the Public Works office and make payment at the County Administration Office.

**PLEASE BRING YOUR LEGAL LAND DESCRIPTION WITH YOU!**

**APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY FRIDAY, MAY 31, 2019 AT 4:00 PM**

**PLEASE NOTE:**
- **LATE APPLICATIONS WILL BE SUBJECT TO A LATE FEE OF $100.00 PER APPLICATION, EFFECTIVE MONDAY, JUNE 3, 2019.**
- **NO APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER FRIDAY, JULY 5, 2019 AT 4:00 PM.**
- **WE WILL NOT BE INVOICING FOR THESE PRODUCTS.**

Thorhild County reserves the right to choose the type of product, method of application and timing of application.

First come will generally be the first served (by area). County does not guarantee the effectiveness of the application as many factors affect how it performs.

If there is not enough interest, County will not run the Dust Control Program for 2019.

Please Contact: Rick Niesiupski
Public Works Manager
(780) 398-3977

**THORHILD COUNTY 2018 CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

Are available at the County Administration Building or http://www.thorhildcounty.com/Residents/Departments/Finance

**SUBDIVISION AND DEVELOPMENT APPEAL BOARD MEMBERS**

Thorhild County is inviting interested County residents to apply for the following:

One (1) Public Member

One (1) Alternate Public Member

To participate on the Subdivision and Development Appeal Board.

The successful candidate is required to successfully complete a training program. Application forms along with Bylaw 08-2018 Subdivision and Development Appeal Board are available at:

Thorhild County Administration Office
801-1 Street, Thorhild, AB
T0A 3J0

or check Career Opportunities on www.thorhildcounty.com

Further information contact:
Carol Revega
Phone: 780-398-2808
Email: carol.revega@thorhildcounty.com

Applications will be accepted by drop off, mail or email. Deadline for applications: Tuesday May 15, 2019 at 4:30 p.m.

**THE ALBERTA TRAFFIC SAFETY CALENDAR HAS MAY AS MOTORCYCLE SAFETY MONTH**

According to the Alberta Traffic Collision Statistics approximately 697 people were injured or killed in a Collision while operating a motorcycle.

A reminder to obey speed limits and other traffic laws and to wear a helmet. Ensure to watch weather conditions as well as road conditions as there may still be wet, sand, or gravel on the road from the winter season. Stay out of blind spots and share the road.
DECLARATION OF A FIRE ADVISORY

Whereas a Fire Advisory is in effect for THORHILD COUNTY due to medium to high fire indices.

Therefore, the Local Authority, satisfied that conditions exist for a fire hazard, does hereby declare that a Fire Advisory exists in the whole of Thorhild County.

Description:
Permits will be issued on a discretionary basis only.

Burn Barrels can still be used as long as you have a current Burn Barrel Permit and you follow the following information. Burn Barrels shall be constructed of non-combustible material, shall be free of damage, shall be covered with a tight fitting metal mesh screen with openings not more than 6 mm in size, shall be located on a non-combustible material base, and shall be located at least 3 meters away from any combustibles. Fire Pits may still be used and they must maintain a minimum of three (3) meter clearance, measured from the nearest fire pit edge to buildings, property lines, or other combustible material and must be constructed of a non-combustible material. Please use extreme caution.

Fire pits ran on natural gas or propane as well as other equipment that uses these gases including BBQ’s may still be used during the Fire Advisory. Supervise and extinguish all fires or burn barrels during windy dry conditions. If you are burning please have all extinguishing equipment handy and ready.

Thorhild County urges everyone to use extreme caution when working or driving in grassy areas, be mindful of hot exhaust and keep vehicles clean and free of debris as smoldering debris can fall off and start fires.

Effective Time: 2:00PM
Effective Date: May 02, 2019

DAVE FIDDLER
Signature
FIRE CHIEF
Title

Phone: 780-398-3741
or toll free: 877-398-3777
www.thorhildcounty.com
801 - 1st Street,
Box 10, Thorhild AB T0A 3J0

Changing chief administrative officers resulted in Sturgeon County paying 67 percent more for the CAO position in 2017 than in 2018. When the councillors elected in October 2017 terminated the CAO, the severance pay was more than his salary for most of the year. In 2017 the county CAO served from January until shortly after the October election. During 2017 he was paid $351,400 in salary and benefits plus $381,280 in severance pay.

From January to November 2018 the county was served by an interim CAO whose contract was for $203,900. The new permanent CAO began Nov. 5, 2018. He received $36,330 during November and December of 2018.

Figures were taken from the 2018 audited financial statements. Salary includes monthly base pay and any gross honoria. Benefits include the employer’s share of professional memberships, Canada Pension Plan, health care and dental benefit plans, group life insurance and disability coverage.

CAO termination cost Sturgeon $385,280

Check out your Weekly FYI online every Tuesday at sturgeoncounty.ca

Starting this year, the “printed edition” will only be available bi-weekly right here in the Morinville Free Press and Redwater Review.

Next print edition: May 14, 2019

Did you know there are a variety of other ways for residents to receive information? Sign up for email subscriptions, follow us on social media, watch the road signs and of course, the website!
METIS CROSSING working to attract 27,000 visitors

Within a couple of years Metis Crossing in Smoky Lake County hopes to host 27,000 people per year for education, tourism, adventures, weddings, conferences, reunions and cultural sharing. It will itil 17 for the 2019 summer season, and Development manager Juanita Marois reported 700 students are already booked to participate in curriculum based field trips and land based learning during June with 120 teachers booked for professional learning.

Aspen View Public Schools trustee April Bauer sees the potential benefits of having such a nearby resource center.

“1 had heard of the Metis Crossing and was aware of its proximity to Smoky Lake, but I didn’t know all that it had to offer and what facilities they had,” she said. “I was very impressed by Juanita Marois’ presentation and her knowledge of the history of the Metis people, specifically those families that settled close to Smoky Lake along the river. I think having the Metis Crossing facility so close to us offers an amazing opportunity for the expansion of understanding about our Metis people, the local First Nations history, and the Treaties that we have here in Alberta.”

She was particularly impressed that Metis Crossing is designed as an experiential learning space, not a museum. “I think our division has a unique opportunity to access this facility for multiple things,” Bauer said, “including professional development, land based learning, and the expansion of the foundational knowledge of our country.”

With Metis Crossing’s new cultural gathering center on schedule for completion in fall, it will become an all-season facility in which the Metis story can be shared with students, tourists, adventurers and families, and where community and corporate groups may meet and grow.

“Land based learning is big,” said Marois. As an education center Metis Crossing also offers resources and training for teachers plus cultural learning for corporate and government officials. As tourist, adventure and cultural des- tinations it is a stopping place for bike tours and canoe trips, the site of festivals, weekend camp- ing and sharing the Metis story through activities ranging from food around a campfire to voyager canoe travel on the North Saskatchewan River.

“We are not a museum,” Marois stated. “We want to offer these experiences. We are sharing the story of a nation, and we’re putting those stories into experiences.” Visitors can visit a Metis fur camp, then paddle into the past in a voyager canoe once to Fort Victoria. Winter Programming includes Tales of the Trapline which involves canoe trip to Fort Victoria. Winter Programming includes Tales of the Trapline which involves winter activities ranging from food around a campfire to voyager canoe travel on the North Saskatchewan River.

“There isn’t a cultural center in the province that does it.” That said, they have a plan for what they want to be doing. “Land based learning is big,” said Marois. As an education center Metis Crossing also offers resources and training for teachers plus cultural training for corporate and government officials. As tourist, adventure and cultural des- tinations it is a stopping place for bike tours and canoe trips, the trip of festivals, weekend camp- ing and sharing the Metis story through activities ranging from food around a campfire to voyager canoe travel on the North Saskatchewan River.

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Ewasiw uses scholarships to remove stress from cost of University

Devon Ewasiw from Thorhild County earned a $5,000 scholarship from the 4-H Foundation of Alberta’s Elmer and Ona Hansen Memorial Fund Scholarship. Added to the several other scholarships he earned, it helped take some of the stress out of his first year at the University of Alberta (U of A).

“It doesn’t cover everything,” Ewasiw said. “But it’s a lot off it. I put some work into applying and got the help. A lot of people struggle with finding because university’s super expensive, and rural kids need a place to live.”

He estimated it costs more than $20,000 for a student to move to Edmonton and pay for housing, food, tuition and books for one year of post-secondary schooling (eight months). Those expenses are recognized by the 4-H Foundation, which offers the Elmer and Ona Hansen Memorial Fund Scholarship to rural students, not just 4H members. Applicants must be Alberta rural farm youth (25 years of age and younger), have completed high school, and must be enrolled as a first-year student at an acknowledged post-secondary institution. The scholarship is designed to help rural farm youth who must leave home to pursue a post-secondary education or trade.

Ewasiw was in 4H for a few years, but he learned of this scholarship from one of his teachers at Thorhild Central School. He is now finished year one of his Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental and Conservation Sciences.

“I’d like to get into wildlife, environmental, or agricultural research,” he said. “He has taken his first steps on that path. This summer he is working for the Government of Alberta with crop research out of Edmonton and going to plots in Barhead, Namao and Vegreville.

In 2018 the 4H Foundation granted the largest monetary scholarship in its history: $80,000 to 10 Alberta rural youth.

“2018 marked a significant milestone in the history of 4-H Alberta and the way we support our youth and the future leaders of this province,” said Foundation CEO Leah Jones. “For deserving youth received scholarships that will help them achieve their goals and foster their dreams to soon make vital impacts in their communities.”

Applications for the 2019 Elmer and Ona Hansen Memorial Scholarship are now open and can be submitted until June 30. Forms are available on the 4-H Alberta website: www.4h.ab.ca.

Alberta 4-H is a leading youth organization community-mindedly developing outstanding leaders with indispensable skills to succeed in today’s society. Through the efforts of a dedicated provincial network, 4-H offers programs, trips, awards and scholarships for members, volunteer leaders and families.

The 4H Foundation of Alberta was formed in 1977 as a nonprofit charitable foundation to build and operate the Alberta 4-H Centre. Today, a big part of the work of the Foundation includes the overview and management of scholarships as well as fundraising efforts to support the 4-H Alberta’s outstanding youth programs and events. The scholarship Ewasiw received was originally established in 2008, through the generosity and leadership of Lillian and Edward Ness who had an unmatched passion for 4-H.

No change to Bellis sewer tax

Property owners in the hamlet of Bellis will pay the same $1.75 per foot frontage tax this year as last year for operation of the community’s sewer system.

“For most years, we get back enough to cover all of the direct expenses and some of the wages,” said Smoky Lake County CAO Cory Ollikka during the April 22 council meeting. “Costs were much higher in 2017 because we had to replace a pump.”

To coax, Dan Gawalko’s question of how much each property owner pays, Ollikka said the average 40’ lot is charged $780 for the year.

The frontage tax generates $8,800 in revenue. Direct expenses for 2019 are estimated to be $11,000 with indirect expenses (staff wages) of $11,800. That creates a net deficit of $14,000. In 2018 the net deficit was $9,700.

“Does council want us to increase it to cover more of the deficit?” asked reeve Craig Lukinuk.

After a brief discussion during which council Randy Orichowski pointed out that council passed its 2019 budget with the frontage fee at $1.75 and the annual deficit is smaller than it was a few years ago, council gave all three readings to the bylaw.
Thorhild County studying huge costs to maintain, repair bridges

Thorhild County’s first steps in preparing a bridge maintenance and replacement program were to have current inspection reports on all bridges.

“We just started to take an in-depth look,” said CAO Wayne Franklin. “We need to update those inspection reports before we can make any kind of work to make decisions that are in the best interest of the county as a whole.”

Included in the information council reviewed during its May 2 bridge meeting were recommendations from MPs Engineering Ltd regarding possibly closing three bridges, replacing 24 with culverts and transferring an unused bridge that is on private land to the landowner.

Infrastructure director Ben Berlinguette presented information on the county’s 53 bridges and 36 bridge culverts. He advised that the most recent inspection reports for some bridges were dated 2012.

“Back in the day we had bridges inspected every four years,” said Gremuta. “When did that change?”

Berlinguette, who has been with the county nearly two years, replied he is not sure. Last year he started working on finding all the bridges and compiling an inventory with condition ratings.

Five bridges have structure condition or sufficiency ratings of 30 percent or lower and another 14 are rated between 30 and 40 percent. At 30 percent the county should get a professional to set a weight restriction or replace the failing parts.

“A weight restriction is a good short term solution, but not for the long term,” said CAO Wayne Franklin. Coun. Joyce Pierce questioned why a bridge rated at 22 percent in 2012 had not been re-inspected. Berlinguette said it is on private land. The county has to check with Alberta Transportation if it can be transferred to the landowner and removed from the county’s inventory.

“Back in 1995 we acquired all bridges from Alberta Transportation,” Franklin said.

“How we inherited a bridge that’s not on a public road is a mystery.”

In a later interview Gremuta said, “I am absolutely 100 percent not in favor of shutting down any bridges what-so-ever. Unfortunately, there’s not a cheap ticket out. He said bridge repair or replacement will average about $1 million each and it is up to the council to find a way to get that done. Lorrying higher levels of government for funding is one avenue. He feels the government that declares a creek navigable waters should pay for enlarged infrastructure required to accommodate that designation.

Thorhild County is presently having four bridges that washed out last spring repaired or replaced. They should be back in service mid summer.

Those four bridges will cost just under $5 million. The county budgeted to pay for the work from bridge reserves but has since been approved for Strategic Transportation Infrastructure Program (STIP) Local Road Bridge Component grants for three of the bridges. Funding will cover up to 75 percent of eligible costs of the three structures to a total maximum of $3 million.
Smoky Lake County assessments increase slightly

Smoky Lake County assessments increased slightly for the second consecutive year, but they are still well below their 2014 value.

“We’re on the rebound and going back up,” said Accurate Assessment Group senior assessor Alison Reid during the April 25 county council meeting. The assessment total increased one percent.

While residential and most non-residential assessments slowly increased during the last five years, and farmland assessments remained steady, linear assessments significantly decreased from 2014 to 2017. The 2018 assessments, which will be used in assessing taxes this year, showed non-residential assessments increased three percent and residential assessments increased two percent. Reid described that as “pretty steady” growth, but noted that Mons Lake residential properties bucked that trend and saw a 10 percent decrease in value.

“Mons Lake market conditions finally captured the negative adjustment,” said Reid. Parked trailers at sites with serv-

grounds.

Reeve Craig Lukinuk noted that the cultural gathering center being built at Metis Crossing will be assessable.

Linear assessments increased three percent over last year while designated industrial properties decreased 10 percent. This was because last year some gas and oil wells were shut in while no new wells were drilled.

Council will consider mill rates for this year dur-

ing its May 17 budget meeting.

THE REVIEW, Redwater, Alberta, 780-942-2023, email: redwater@shaw.ca, www.cowleynewspapers.com, Tuesday, May 7, 2019, Page A17
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WANTED TRAVEL SERVICES

Kuku Farms Ltd. has filed application SA19088 with the Natural Resources Conservation Board (NRCB) to obtain an Approval to construct a new confined feeding operation (CFO) on Pt. 586 1-55-26 WM in Sturgeon County of Alberta. The application is to construct a 100,000 poultry layer operation.

Filing a Statement

Any person who is directly affected by the application may submit a statement of concern to the NRCB. The statement of concern must be received by the NRCB on or before June 8, 2019. Submissions should be made to the NRCB address provided below. A copy of the statement of concern will be sent to the applicant for review and comment. Statements submitted regarding the application are public records.

Your statement of concern should include your name, the legal land description of your residence or landholdings, mailing address, phone number, tax number, email address, and a detailed summary that describes how you would be directly affected by the application. For further information please refer to the fact sheet “The Permitting Process for Confined Feeding Operations in Alberta” at www.nrcb.ca.

Failure to submit a statement of concern may affect your rights to apply for an NRCB review.

Viewing the Application

A complete copy of the application and supporting documents submitted by the applicant under the Agriculture Operation Practices Act may be viewed on line at www.nrcb.ca or during regular business hours at the Morinville office of the NRCB until June 8, 2019. If you require further information, please contact the approval officer listed below.

Julie Wright, Approval Officer Provincial Building, 201, 10009 – 107 Street Morinville AB T8R 1L3 Julie.wright@nrcb.ca T 780-938-1171 F 780-838-3194 www.nrcb.ca

WHERE?
Abee Community Hall

WHEN?
May 15, 2019

TIME?
10:00 a.m.
Prices effective Thursday, May 9th - Wednesday, May 15th.

CO-OP

North Corridor

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Thorhild 780-398-3975
Fax 780-689-3991
Toll Free 1-888-889-2667
adm@boylecoop.ca

North Corridor Co-operative is placing the following equipment up for sale by Tender:
1. Westeel Bin Trailer serial # 54626-F37 (located at Thorhild Homecentre to view)
2. Wheatheart Heavyhitter Post Pounder serial # 206214W (located at the Thorhild Homecentre to view)
3. Komatsu 5500 lb Forklift / FG30HT-12 serial # 562292A (located at Boyle Homecentre to view)

All equipment is sold “as is, where is” with no expressed warranty. GST will be added to the tendered price. The highest or any tender may not necessarily be accepted.

Tenders will close on May 24, 2019 at 3pm.

Tenders may be submitted in the following ways:
Mail:
North Corridor Co-op
Box 8
Boyle, AB T0A 0M0
Attn.: 2019 Equipment Tender
Fax:
780-689-3991
Attn.: 2019 Equipment Tender
Email:
gm@boylecoop.ca
Attn.: 2019 Equipment Tender