

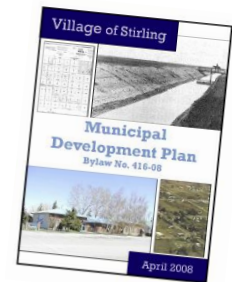


Mayor's Monthly Message

August 2021

Thank you to everyone for your continued patience during road construction season in the Village. A big thank you, in particular, to residents along or adjacent to 3rd street as we complete the final curb, pavement and beautification of the street in front of the school. A number of other roads in our community underwent rehabilitation earlier in the summer but the bonding agent used in the gravel mixture did not hold up as expected. The supplier has corrected the formulation issues and there will likely be some additional road work before the snow flies to rework some of these streets.

Thank you also to all residents who participated in the recent survey to provide input into our Municipal Development Plan. The feedback on the scope, pace and location of future development in our community is very helpful as Council and Administration works to update master plans in accordance with provincial requirements. Watch for more opportunities to engage in these discussions and provide additional input in the coming months.



We are just over two months away from municipal elections across Alberta. All nominations must be received by the Returning Officer no later than 12 noon on Monday, September 20th. There



Your Village
Your Vote
2021

are a number of resources on the Village website for prospective candidates including relevant provincial legislation, municipal policies, required forms and the new Council orientation schedule. There are five Councillor positions open for election. (The Mayor is selected from Council.)

Council was pleased to receive updated crime statistics from the Raymond/Magrath RCMP this month. The Raymond/Magrath detachment service area had a crime severity index or CSI of 38.4 in 2020 which is tied for 4th LOWEST in the province. That rate was also improved by 16.7% compared to the previous year. Council appreciates the proactive communication and engagement we receive from the local RCMP. Council remains steadfastly opposed to the Province's plan to move towards a more costly and unnecessary provincial police force.

As you may know, the Village operates the ATB Financial Agency in Stirling to ensure access to banking services remains available to our community. The Village has finally become a "fully converted" agency which basically means we have access to the same computer systems and real-time service options as a full branch. The Village staff are wrapping up their training on the new systems but are looking forward to providing you with improved service.





We continue to see strong uptake on electrical, natural gas and other services available from Ridge Utilities both within our community and across our region. August saw the regulated rate option or RRO for electricity in Alberta jump to over 12¢/kWh. That might have been big surprise for anyone still on a variable or floating rate. Ridge Utilities offers fixed rates beginning at just over 8¢/kwh. Feel free to visit the Ridge Utilities website via the link on the Village website or stop by the office to ask any questions. (www.RidgeUtilities.net)

A reminder to both storefront and homebased business in Stirling that interest free loans are available through a unique partnership with Community Futures Lethbridge Region. You can find more details on the Village website or directly at this link: <http://stirling.ca/business/community-futures-business-loans>.



Finally, we're thrilled to add a new fire truck to the Stirling Fire Department fleet. We appreciate the hard work of Deputy Chief Marv Birky who has been collaborating closely with the City of Calgary for a number of months to secure a new-to-us truck with enhanced capabilities that will also allow us to reduce maintenance and operating expenses. Our volunteers will be training in the coming weeks to properly bring this unit into service.

We're also very proud of Lt. Sean Fawcett and Firefighter Rick Rampton of Stirling's Fire Department who have been deployed to Kelowna, BC to assist in staffing a structure protection unit in response to the out of control fires that burn through much of that province. We wish them a safe and speedy return.



Hard to believe it's almost time to finish back to school supply shopping for many. Remember to mark Monday, October 18th on your calendar and plan ahead to cast your vote in the upcoming municipal election. There will be ballots for Westwind School Board Trustee, Alberta's Senatorial Election as well as two provincial referendum questions. Make sure your voice is heard! (More information can be found on the Village website under the "elections" section of the Government tab.)

Trevor Lewington