



Mayor's Monthly Message

November 2021

Council has been busy since our acclamation on election day last month completing mandatory orientation training. We met on Saturday, October 23rd and 30th to review key bylaws, policies, applicable provincial legislation in detail as well as review the Village's infrastructure master plan. This process is a helpful review for returning Councillors and also serves as good foundation for new members of our team. (Besides, who doesn't love a good tour of the ole policy binder?)

Council has also begun the process of developing our strategic plan for this term and determining priorities. Previous strategic plans are available for review on the Village website. Council will need to pass interim operating and capital budgets for 2022 before the end of this year. These budgets are then updated and approved early next year once provincial budget transfers and other factors are known. Our strategic plan helps to inform the budget planning process.

Council was pleased to hear from Sgt. Kevin Wright of the Raymond RCMP this month as he provided an update on the most recent quarter's crime statistics. Stirling had 22 total incidents as of the end of the second quarter which was 7 less than the same time in 2020. Property crimes are down significantly. We appreciate Sgt. Wright's regular updates to Council and his engagement with us to discuss community enforcement priorities.



Crime Type	2021	2020	2019
Persons Offences	2	3	2
Property Offences	4	13	10
Criminal Code Other	1	4	2
Drug Offences	0	0	0
Federal Statutes	0	0	0
Prov Stats (not traffic)*	11	5	6
Prov Traffic	3	3	4
Criminal Code Traffic	1	0	0
Collisions	0	1	1
Sum	22	29	25

Planners from the Oldman River Regional Services Commission provided Council with a presentation with the results of a youth engagement survey that was completed by grade 9 and grade 12 students at the school. Council began the process of updating the Municipal Development Plan early this year and has been gathering feedback from the community to help inform what Stirling should look like in 10 years. We appreciate the input and suggestions from students to help us with our planning. You can see the youth survey results on the Village website or directly at this link: <https://stirling.ca/archives/9930>.



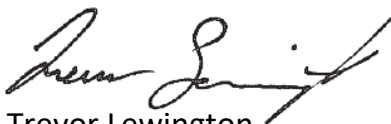
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Council virtually attended a number of sessions as part of the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association or AUMA Annual Conference. Council determined that virtual attendance allowed us to participate in the main sessions without incurring the travel expenses related to attending live in Edmonton. The Village of Stirling and Town of Magrath put forward a resolution at the conference to encourage the Government of Alberta to allow municipalities to show community policing costs on tax notices so residents have transparency on all requisitions like education and seniors housing that are part of your tax bill and outside the control of Council. Our resolution was supported by AUMA members with a 83% vote in favour. AUMA will now include our request in their future lobbying efforts on our behalf with the provincial government.

I want to express my sincere appreciation for all members of our community, young and old, who attended our Remembrance Day ceremony and Cenotaph dedication. It was gratifying to see so many visibly support the lasting memory of those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedoms. I am also grateful for the many people and organizations who helped bring the Cenotaph project to life including but not limited to: the 20th Independent Field Battery of the Royal Canadian Army, Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Royal Canadian Legion/Last Post Fund, Veterans Affairs Canada, Stirling School, Stirling Fire Department and our own public works team. Links to media coverage of our event and a number of pictures can be found on the Village website here: <http://stirling.ca/remembrance-day>.

Recent events in British Columbia serve as a stark reminder of how vulnerable infrastructure and supply chains can be to major weather events and natural disasters. As winter weather arrives, it's a great time to ensure you have 72 hour kits for every member of your family as well as highway safety items in your vehicles. You can find additional information on winter highway safety here: <https://www.alberta.ca/safer-winter-highways.aspx>.

The Community Events Committee has been working hard to plan a Christmas season kickoff event. Join us at the Kiosk on Saturday, December 4th beginning at 5pm to "Light Up Stirling". Come for hot chocolate, doughnuts, bonfire, sleigh rides, music, conversation and the lighting up of the kiosk.


Trevor Lewington



LIGHT UP STIRLING
at the kiosk

Located at the yellow building on the corner of main street and Highway 516

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4TH 4:30 PM - 6:30 PM

4:30 PM - SANTA'S FIREMEN PARADE (SEE ROUTE MAP BELOW)

5:00 PM - JOIN US AT THE KIOSK AND KEEP WARM BY THE FIRE PITS WITH HOT CHOCOLATE AND DOUGHNUTS AND ENJOY SLEIGH RIDES TOO!!

5:30 PM - COUNTDOWN TO "LIGHT UP STIRLING"

5:40 PM - COME VISIT WITH SANTA, GET A CANDY BAG AND ENJOY LIVE MUSIC

Event sponsored by:

Stirling Firefighters Association Stirling Lions Club Village of Stirling