



Mayor's Monthly Message

February 2022

The last few weeks have seen many lively debates in parliaments, workplaces and living rooms across the country. Emotions have run high as our nation grapples with fundamental questions about freedoms, rights and corresponding responsibilities. My hope is that people become much more involved in the democratic and government processes that impact their daily lives. It takes time to cut through the seemingly endless misinformation now available through social media. It takes time to do the research and understand the legislation that governs our land. It is time well spent. I think part of the reason that I am such a big believer in the local or municipal level of government is that discussions at Council are less driven by partisan politics and more focussed on finding solutions to problems in our community. Our society seems to have given up on listening to each other and seeking to understand different perspectives. So if you are unhappy with something in our Village, I encourage you to read Council meeting minutes, attend Council meetings and reach out to your elected representatives to share your ideas and concerns. We are here to listen. We are here to take action.

Calling all local artists! We would like to help sell your artwork and creative projects. Council approved an "Artisan Support Policy" this month brought forward by our CAO. The program would allow local artists to hang their works and show off their skills in the Village office. If the piece sells, the Village will collect payment and remit it to the creator. The Village wins with a constantly changing assortment of artwork to decorate the office while local artists win with another gallery option to display and sell their work. You can find more information on the Village website by clicking here:

<https://stirling.ca/archives/10492>.



Council continues to review our capital projects and changing budgets. Inflationary pressures continue to be a concern as the costs of materials and equipment rise with market conditions. Administration continues monitor our identified priorities and provides Council with regular updates on

any adjustments that may be needed. We continue to focus our financial resources this year on the reopening of the pool and continued progress on our ongoing multi-year road rehabilitation program.



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I attend a regular monthly meeting of roughly 40 mayors and reeves from across southwest Alberta. February's monthly meeting with my peers was focussed on ambulance availability and emergency medical services (EMS) dispatch in our region. Alberta's Health Minister as well as the Chief Paramedic of Alberta attended our meeting virtually to provide an update on the Government of Alberta's 10 point plan to improve service. I am grateful that the highly trained and dedicated professionals of Stirling's Fire Department provide a medical first response program to bridge the gap while waiting for ambulances to arrive to calls in our community. Medical first response or MFR is a critical service when every second counts and ambulances must sometimes come from Lethbridge or Coaldale. You can learn more about the government's plan by clicking here:

<https://www.alberta.ca/release.cfm?xID=817698A0B3E38-CB1E-7434-A9265705634345ED#jumplinks-1>



The last quarter saw a jump in Stirling's crime statistics. The unexpected increase was due to a number of frauds reported related to cyber crime. Phone and on-line scams seem to be more and more frequent and often target seniors. Look for information to be posted on the Village website in the coming weeks as well as an education session from the RCMP sometime in the spring. In the meantime, there are a number of simple steps to keep in mind to better protect yourself from these fraudsters. You can check out a number of resources from the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre by clicking here:

<https://www.antifraudcentre-centreantifraude.ca/index-eng.htm>

I look forward to visiting with the Stirling Senior's Club this week to share our 4 year business plan, key projects and answer questions.


Trevor Lewington

"Be transparent. Let's build a community that allows hard questions and honest conversations so we can stir up transformation in one another." — Germany Kent