



Mayor's Monthly Message

October 2022

Have you ever read the Village's Waste Management Bylaw? Bylaw 464-16 requires that all waste deposited in a Village issued waste collection cart be bagged and tied at the top to prevent refuse from blowing around in the wind or becoming scattered when the cart is dumped by the collection truck.

Garbage must also fit into the collection cart. Oversized items should be taken to the transfer station. Other examples of items that should not be placed in the carts include: dangerous, toxic or hazardous materials, animal carcasses, concrete or trees/branches.

Recently we have had several instances of damage to the collection truck from paint (toxic substance), concrete blocks and oversized items hidden in carts.

Damages ultimately cost us all through higher utility charges to pay for repairs.



A delegation from STARS Air Ambulance spoke with Council this month about their critical care services and long-term plans. STARS currently receives about 20% of its operational funding from the provincial government with the remainder being covered through fundraising and corporate donations. STARS flies to the Stirling and Raymond area on average 3-5 times per year.

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Lethbridge and the Chinook Regional Hospital is also the top destination for the helicopters of the Calgary base. Our visitors toured the fire hall and met with our fire department to identify areas for future collaboration. Visit www.stars.ca to learn more.



Council voted this month to hold utility franchise fees at their current levels which have been in place since 2019 even though a number of surrounding communities are exploring increases to such fees for 2023.

A franchise fee is charged by the municipality in exchange for the granting of the right to provide the utility service in the municipality and for the ability to place distribution facilities like pipelines or transmission wires on municipally owned lands. The municipality is largely responsible for establishing the level of the franchise fee through a franchise agreement.

For electrical and natural gas distribution companies, franchise fees are typically calculated as a percentage of the total distribution charges on a customer’s bill. The distribution company collects the franchise fee from its customers, through a line item on the customer’s bill typically labelled the “Municipal Franchise Fee” or “Local Access Fee”. The distribution company then remits the franchise fee to the municipality in accordance with the terms of the franchise agreement.

2022 ATCO Franchise Fees – Natural Gas	
Milk River	30%
Lethbridge	27%
Taber	18%
Coaldale	15%
Raymond	15%
Magrath	15%
Stirling	12%



2022 FortisAlberta Franchise Fees - Electricity	
Taber	18%
Raymond	16%
Coaldale	13%
Milk River	12%
Stirling	12%
Magrath	10%





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Council held it's Annual Organizational Meeting this month as required under provincial law. I was elected by my Council colleagues to remain in the Mayor's chair. I appreciate their continued trust and the renewed opportunity to continue to serve in this capacity.

Larry Nilsson will continue in his role as Deputy Mayor. The Organizational meeting also confirms Council's meeting days and times for the subsequent year as well as reappoints all of our internal and external committees.

Council approved the purchase of a house and land at 225 4th Avenue directly east of the Village office. Council hopes to rezone the property from residential to commercial. We are exploring future subdivision and development opportunities to provide new options for local business growth on our "main street".



Best of luck to all the contestants who are competing for bragging rights in the Festival of Frights Halloween Home Decorating Contest. Be sure to get out and about to check out some of the great decorations. Good luck to all of the builders competing in the Library's Haunted Lego Museum. Happy Halloween!

Trevor Lewington

"When you sign on to making a positive impact in your community, your story including your life experiences, skills and passions will provide inspiration to others." — Germany Kent