

Deputy Mayor Nilsson, CAO Donselaar and I attended an "All Councils" meeting on April 2nd recognizing 55 years of Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) in our region. We had the opportunity to meet the FCSS team from across our region, hear client success stories first hand and learn about the results accomplished over the last year.



FCSS provides important free services like the Community Volunteer Income Tax program to help you get your income taxes filed, positive parenting program, activities for children and access to counselling. You can find the local FCSS calendar here:

<https://fcss.ca/location/stirling/>.

Spring is in the air, and everyone is excited to take advantage of the warmer weather by being outside and enjoying the sunshine, including some of our four-legged friends! While the majority of escaped pooches are simply having a fun day out, there have been repeat offenders. Unfortunately, a few of these public encounters have not been friendly.



Please help keep your dog(s) safe by taking a few simple precautions: 1) Make sure your dogs are secure and safe while on your property whether you are at home or not, 2) Make sure they are leashed and in your control while out in public and 3) If they do get loose, make sure they have a

registration tag with the Village so we can contact the owners and get them back home as soon as possible.

If you do spot a dog on its own, or encounter any issues with dogs in our community, you can call or text the Ridge Regional Public Safety Services Commission (Bylaw Enforcement) at 587-813-0791. It is interesting to note that there were a total of 20 calls for service related to dogs all of last year in Stirling – 11 for loose dogs, 8 for excessive barking and 1 welfare check. This is significantly lower than the 76 calls for service seen in Raymond.

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A big thanks to Sparky and members of the Stirling Fire Department for once again handing out Easter treats in the Village. Always great to see the smiles on the faces of our youngest residents. Thanks to the Village's Community Events Committee for continuing to help organize and promote a range of social events and activities for us all to enjoy.



Council received the 2024 Audited Financials Statements this month from representatives of MWG CPA – the Village's third part external auditor. Council appreciates the hard work of Administration to maintain a clean audit report each year. You can find audited financial statements back to 2009 on the Village website. The statements are also filed annually with Alberta Municipal Affairs.

Council approved an updated policy related to compensation and expenses for elected officials that will take effect after the next municipal election. The policy updates requirements for record keeping and increases the modest base compensation members of Council receive that hasn't been adjusted in more than a decade.



Administration provided an update this month on inspections completed on the bridges within the Village. Ensuring the structural integrity and condition of bridges is a critical part of our Infrastructure Master Plan to avoid unpleasant budget surprises as well as ensure public safety. The good news is that all of our bridges are in good condition requiring only minimal maintenance work.

Administration also reported back on a review of all software licenses, contractors and service providers from the United States after Council directed that any such providers in the United States be shifted to Canadian and local alternatives wherever possible.



Trevor Lewington

"A community is like a ship; everyone ought to be prepared to take the helm." – Henrik Ibsen

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