

Mayor's Monthly Message

July 2025

It was great to see so many people out enjoying the many festivities of Settler Days. My thanks to all the volunteers and Village staff who make our annual community celebration possible. It's a massive undertaking to plan, organize and execute so many different events over four days. The Community Events Committee works hard to experiment with new activities while also maintaining all the fan favorites.





Sponsors play a key role in ensuring all the family-friendly fun remains largely free for the community to enjoy. In no particular order – our sincere gratitude to: Wolf Creek and New Rockport Colonies for supporting eggs and sausage at the Fire Department Toonie Breakfast, ATCO for the stage trailer, Village Dental for the Family Dance and Street Party, Ridge Utilities for the Movie at the Community Centre, FCSS for the Game Zone, What's Poppin

for prizes and pool activities, Streetside Market for free community lunch, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints for the time, service and hard work pulling off the beef on a bun for the community along with Nelson Family Ranches for the beef.

We appreciate everyone's patience with weather related venue changes and time adjustments. As always, ensuring public safety and that of our crews is the first priority. Decisions often need to be made hours in advance of events to ensure proper set-up can take place. We do our best to track the weather and minimize disruptions – sometimes we get it right and sometimes Mother Nature has other ideas!



As a result of some overzealous candy throwing during the parade this year that resulted in both property damage and a minor injury, Council will be evaluating changes as to how the parade takes place for next year. Most communities have moved away from tossing candy from floats to handing out candy directly.

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Council this month was pleased to hear from Chief Marv Birky who provided an overview of the Stirling Fire Department's progress on the priorities of their strategic plan. Continued investments in equipment and training ensure that our volunteers are ready and capable to respond to a broad range of incidents in the Village and beyond.

Council approved a new policy this month that will see our Fire Department move to a paid on-call model beginning January 1, 2026. Volunteers in our department will receive a modest honorarium for hours of active duty responding to calls. Time spent on training and community involvement will continue to be on a purely voluntary basis. The honorarium is a small token of appreciation for our volunteers for their time, dedication and willingness to serve.



Council also met in a closed session to hear several proposals for commercial land development in the community. We do our best to avoid closed or in-camera sessions but from time to time we need to hold discussions in private to protect the commercial interests of business or protect confidential information until formal proposals for public discussion are received. The current Council has been focused this term on laying the groundwork to enable small scale commercial development to broaden and diversify the tax base.

As a reminder, our next Council meeting is Wednesday, August 20th. Our meeting on August 6th is cancelled.

Trevor Lewington

"Some people think they are in community, but they are only in proximity. True community requires commitment and openness. It is a willingness to extend yourself to encounter and know the other."

- David Spangler

