



## Mayor's Monthly Message

January 2021

Happy New Year! I'm sure we are all quite pleased to see 2020 close and fade into a distant memory. The beginning of a new year is an exciting time to reset goals and review priorities. Council did just that in November to ensure we kicked off 2021 with a clear understanding of the work ahead in the final year of our term. You can see the one page snapshot of the 2021 priority list by clicking here: <http://stirling.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Five-Year-Strategic-Plan-2021-Highlight-Sheet.pdf>.

The beginning of a new year also means it is time to renew all the animal, pet and business licenses that might be required. Avoid penalties and potential problems by renewing now.

Renewing your dog license each year ensures that lost pets can be quickly reunited with owners. Spayed and neutered dogs are \$25 each while non-spayed or non-neutered dogs are \$45 each. You can find more information on requirements and potential penalties on the Village website under Bylaw 423 – Dog Control Bylaw or on this page <http://stirling.ca/government/bylaws-policies>. Help us protect your four legged friends and register them.



Livestock licenses are \$25 per animal or a flat fee of \$25 in the case of chickens and poultry. Requirements and potential penalties are set out in Bylaw 471 – Animal Bylaw. Registration of livestock is particularly helpful in our community emergency response planning. License records help to identify where animals are located and help inform of the required tasks during the unlikely event of a community evacuation.

A business license is required for anyone operating a store front or home based business in the Village (\$25) or those hoping to do business as a vendor with the Village itself. We have a reciprocal recognition arrangement with a number of other communities so a business license issued by Stirling is recognized in Raymond, Magrath, Coaldale, Barons, Picture Butte, Coalhurst and Nobleford. Licensed businesses are also featured in the business directory of the Village website at no charge. Make sure you are listed! The business license application form for new applications can be found here: <http://stirling.ca/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/Business-License-Application-2013-Village-of-Stirling.pdf>



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This month Council heard a detailed review of our energy program. The internal review confirmed that we are a net zero community in that our electrical generation from solar arrays exceeds our total municipal consumption for public buildings and other uses like street lights. The total credits and savings we receive from our solar system actually exceed the energy charges we pay for electricity making it a cash flow positive proposition. Council also heard how switching to the “solar club” rates available through Ridge Utilities would help maximize revenues and create up to \$40,000 in additional revenue for the Village. Council also reviewed a number of other recommendations to further reduce costs associated with our electrical and natural gas use. If you have solar panels or are considering adding them to your home, you can find more about the solar club by clicking here:



<https://www.ridgeutilities.net/solarrate.html>

Municipal elections will take place across Alberta on Monday, October 18, 2021. It’s hard to believe that Council’s four-year term is entering the home stretch. Candidates who are interested in running for the Village Council (including the position of Mayor which is selected from within Council) can submit nomination forms anytime from now until 4:00 pm on Monday, September 20<sup>th</sup>. The Village website will be updated in the coming months with more information about running as a candidate as well as providing general information for electors on the election process, poll opening hours and candidate forums as well.

I would like to thank Village residents for their continued patience and understanding as we work through public health restrictions imposed by the Provincial government. We will continue to increase operating hours and available services at the office, library and other facilities as we are able to do so. No decisions have been made as yet regarding the opening of the pool this season or key community events like Settler Days. We will continue to work with Alberta Health Services and keep the community updated on new developments in the fight against the coronavirus.

Stay well. Stay positive.

Trevor Lewington