



Mayor's Monthly Message

September 2022



Stirling is fortunate to have great partners. Richardson Pioneer recently presented a \$20,000 cheque to the Stirling Fire Rescue Association to support the Structure Protection Unit project. A big thanks to local resident Ray Smith for bringing forward the project to Richardson's community foundation team for their consideration.

Did you know that Family & Community Support Services or FCSS served 214 Stirling residents last year? FCSS offers a range of services from access to counselling, tax return preparation, walking challenges, parent support programming, clothing exchanges and so much more. The FCSS building is located at 417 2nd Street beside the Lion's Hall/Community centre. There is a great outdoor play space too. You can call Stacey at (403) 756-3572 or visit their website at <https://fcss.ca/office/22> for more information.



Crime Type	2022	2021	2020
Persons Offences	1	2	4
Property Offences	5	5	15
Criminal Code Other	0	2	0
Drug Offences	0	0	0
Federal Statutes	0	0	1
Prov Stats (not traffic)*	4	8	4
Prov Traffic	1	12	2
Criminal Code Traffic	0	0	0
Collisions	1	2	3
Total	12	31	29

Sergeant Kevin Wright from the Raymond/Magrath RCMP visited with Council this month to provide an update on detachment staffing and recent crime trends. The chart shows that incidents for the first quarter of the RCMP year (April-June) were less than half of the prior year! The vast majority of incidents continue to be property related crimes so be sure to keep your vehicles and out-buildings locked up. The RCMP conducted 155 proactive patrols in Stirling during the quarter.

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Shane Still from the Village's Public Works team presented an update to Council on the status of capital projects completed this year. Work continues on final upgrades to the pool's interior lining and the concrete pool deck. Council appreciates the hard work of the public works team in getting the pool ready for and operating throughout a very busy summer season. Preliminary results from replacement of the boiler system and addition of solar preheat are promising as our utility bills for the operation of the pool have been reduced significantly.



Council approved our Municipal Development Plan or MDP this month after wide ranging public input over the last year and a public hearing. The MDP had not been updated since 2008 and there have been many changes to our community in the intervening years. All communities in Alberta are required to have an MDP in place. The updated MDP guides future land use, infrastructure, environmental, social and economic policy decisions for the community. The MDP was developed to protect the rural character and unique features of Stirling.



Council hosted a Townhall meeting and Open House on September 14th. We were fortunate to be joined by a number of our community partners with displays and information from ATCO, Fortis, Ridge Regional Public Safety Services, MPE Engineering, Stirling Lion's Club, Stirling Fire Department, FCSS and the RCMP. Council appreciates those residents who took the time to listen to the presentations and ask questions.

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Deputy Mayor Nilsson and I attended the Annual Conference of the Association of Alberta Municipalities from September 21st to 23rd in Calgary. This annual gathering of elected officials from across the province provides access to a range of education sessions on important topics as well presentations from provincial government leaders on their plans. We also managed to arrange meetings with representatives from Alberta Transportation with respect to a grant for upgrades to our lift station that the department handles. In addition, we joined the Town of Raymond for a meeting with the RCMP and representatives from Alberta Justice about the police funding model. Costs for policing that are passed on to municipalities are increasing each year.



A big thank you to all those who helped with our 13th Annual Fall Festival on September 24th. It was great to see residents able to make the most of the warm sunny weather. The Community Events Committee did a great job with a broad range of activities including wagon rides, face painting, petting zoo, vendor market and a delicious pulled pork dinner. There was even a “Squash the Competition” contest for the biggest and strangest creations to emerge from local gardens.

Finally, Council continues to explore potential ways to refresh our branding. Councillor Bohn provided an overview of why this matters during our recent open house. We’ve also had some questions recently about potential changes to a few bylaws related to critters in the Village. We’re conducting a survey to gather some quick feedback that will help inform the process. Take a few minutes and complete the survey here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/JDP5XQT>

Trevor Lewington