

COUNTY connections



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SturgeonCounty.ca

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County Centre Getting Accessibility Upgrade

You may have noticed some construction activity at County Centre recently. The County is renovating the front entrance area of the building to install wheelchair-accessible washrooms and enhance meeting spaces to prioritize inclusivity and accessibility.

In addition to being used as meeting spaces for staff and Council, the renovated meeting rooms are used for public meetings. The upgrades will ensure all residents can access these spaces safely and participate in public meetings.

Construction is expected to last until August.

You're still welcome and encouraged to come to County Centre to meet with staff and attend Council meetings. During construction, where you enter County Centre will change.

Visit SturgeonCounty.ca/Renovations to plan your visit and find out where you enter the building. Signage will be posted at County Centre to help direct you to the proper entrance.

During Council meetings, which are generally held on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month, construction will be paused to ensure residents can safely enter Council Chamber.

Stay up to date on construction progress and how to access County services during construction by subscribing to our project newsletters at SturgeonCounty.ca/Subscribe.

Scan this QR code with your smartphone camera to learn more about the renovations.



Let's Stay Connected

Download the Sturgeon County App

Search "Sturgeon County" in your app store to download. Turn on notifications to get access to news, contacts, online services, permits, applications and more! Learn more at SturgeonCounty.ca/App.



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Subscribe to our daily or weekly email newsletters to get news and project updates delivered to your inbox. Get details at SturgeonCounty.ca/Subscribe



Getting Involved In Sturgeon County Decisions

Sturgeon County makes decisions that matter to residents, which is why Council and Administration want you to be informed and involved. You have opportunities to provide input on projects and initiatives taking shape in Sturgeon County.

In-Person Opportunities

We host in-person information sessions and open houses to provide information and allow attendees to ask questions. These opportunities are promoted via the Sturgeon County website, social media, mailed letters and more! View our events at [SturgeonCounty.ca/Events](https://sturgeoncounty.ca/Events).

Council Meetings

You're encouraged to attend Council meetings and provide your input on items that matter to you. Council meetings are held on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month, at 9 a.m. in Council Chambers, unless otherwise specified. Council meetings are open to the public and can also be livestreamed on our website at [SturgeonCounty.ca/CouncilMeetings](https://sturgeoncounty.ca/CouncilMeetings).

You can register to speak at a Council meeting, and you can attend a public hearing – either in-person or via videoconference – and speak for up to five minutes at that hearing. You can also submit written statements via email or mail. Learn more about upcoming Council meetings and how you can provide input at [SturgeonCounty.ca/CouncilMeetings](https://sturgeoncounty.ca/CouncilMeetings).

Council Committees

County residents also play an important advisory role to Council, including on the County's six advisory committees that provide advice and recommendations directly to Council on matters related to resource extraction, community services, economic development, transportation, agriculture and youth.

The County is also looking at new ways to engage residents directly through panels, surveys, and other channels to gather input and suggestions. We encourage you to become actively involved in the future of your community.

Contacting Council Members

You're invited to contact the Mayor or your Councillor to share your input or ask questions. Each Council member's contact information is listed on the following pages. Learn more at [SturgeonCounty.ca/Council](https://sturgeoncounty.ca/Council).

Contact Our Staff

Our staff are happy to answer your questions! You can reach us on weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. by phone at **780-939-4321** or toll-free at **1-866-939-9303**. You can also email us at hello@sturgeoncounty.ca, or stop by our offices. Sturgeon County Centre is located at 9613 100 St. in Morinville.

Messages From Council



Mayor
Alanna Hnatiw

587-987-2907

ahnatiw@sturgeoncounty.ca

It is a priority for me that our community be informed and engaged with the land use decisions affecting the County. Understanding who is applying for land use changes, how we as Council make decisions and how those decisions impact you are essential.

Council is committed to making decisions that balance growth with the preservation of the natural environment. When making decisions, we consider the impacts of development on quality of life, the economy and agricultural preservation, among other factors.

These decisions are not always easy to make, and we know members of our community can be impacted. I encourage you to become involved in and informed about the land use plans in place, proposed land use changes, and the decisions being made by Council. You have an opportunity to provide feedback throughout these processes.

It can be difficult to tell fact from fiction online, and it's becoming more common for misinformation to spread in the community, particularly on social media. I encourage you to review our plans, do your research and ask questions – we are available to help you understand land use.

Proposed changes are shared on our website at [SturgeonCounty.ca/Public-Notices](https://sturgeoncounty.ca/Public-Notices), as well as in local newspapers, on road signs in the area, and on social media. You can find information about land use plans on our website, by calling our Planning and Development Services department at **780-939-8275** or by contacting your councillor.

Together, we can find solutions that balances growth and land preservation and contribute to a thriving community, for residents of all ages, now and into the future.

Scan this QR code with your smartphone camera to view our planning documents, including the Land Use Bylaw.



D I V I

1 2 3



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Dan Derouin**

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**Councillor
Matthew McLennan**

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Preventing crime is collaborative work, and we all have a role to play.

For 40 years, Sturgeon County has been served by the Sturgeon Rural Crime Watch Association. This volunteer association works in partnership with policing agencies to prevent crime and create safe communities. The nearly 800 members are the eyes and ears for RCMP, actively keeping watch and reporting suspicious activity in hamlets, subdivisions and rural areas.

The work of the Sturgeon Rural Crime Watch Association and its members strengthens community bonds, as neighbours come together with a common goal and as neighbours look out for one another.

I extend my gratitude to members – past and present – who dedicate their time, energy and talents to building a safer County. You help educate residents about how to best protect their property, privacy and personal security, and you aren't afraid to make a call when you see something suspicious. It's calls like these that prevent crime and prevent our residents from being victimized.

Sturgeon County is a proud supporter of the association and contributes \$2,500 each year to help support its work.

Members make a significant difference in keeping our community safe. Lifetime membership costs just \$25, which goes towards covering operating costs and promotional costs. Learn more and become a member at SturgeonRuralCrimeWatch.org.

Rural crime prevention is a shared responsibility, and it's heartening to see the dedication and collaboration of all involved. Together, we can continue to make strides towards safer, more secure communities for everyone. Once again, our heartfelt thanks go to MP Dane Lloyd, Minister Dale Nally, MLA, and Mr. Shane Getson, MLA for their invaluable cooperation and support in this vital endeavour.

Communication is the cornerstone of trust, accountability and effective governance.

The decisions we make as elected officials directly impact you, and we're committed to making sure you know about these decisions and the opportunities you have to share input. We also know how important it is for you to be able to access information about our programs and services.

We recently relaunched our website and made several key improvements to make it easier for you to get the information you need and want.

- **Streamlined navigation:** we reduced the overall page count, so you can easily find the information you need with fewer clicks.
- **Improved searchability:** you can search more content using the improved search feature.
- **File directory:** we have more files – including bylaws, policies and planning documents – available in our searchable file directory.
- **Subscription options:** you can subscribe to project updates or news items, including public notices, Council meeting recaps and more!

Our website is mobile-friendly, and we also offer a free mobile app. I recommend downloading the Sturgeon County app from the Apple App Store or Google Play Store. With this app, you can easily report a road concern such as gravel roads needing grading, trees blocking the roadway and animal carcasses. Plus, you will have access to a variety of additional information.

There are many other ways we continue to communicate with residents, including this newsletter, newspaper ads, road signs, information sessions, social media, engagement sessions and many more! In addition, Council members are always open to meeting with residents to discuss their priorities and concerns.

Small businesses are the backbone of our local economy. Sturgeon County is home to more than 2,100 small businesses that offer a range of products, services and experiences.

We have business owners offering food products like honey and grains, and artisans selling high-quality wares. The County is home to locally owned golf courses, greenhouses, u-picks and attractions. We also have dozens of small businesses specializing in services like catering, construction, landscaping, autobody repair, aviation and manufacturing.

These small businesses don't just provide goods and services, they build community. They provide jobs for neighbours and contribute in meaningful ways to the culture of Sturgeon County.

When you support local businesses, your dollars stay in local hands and are often spent at other local businesses, compounding the positive effect on our local economy. When you purchase from large corporations, those dollars don't always stay here. Many of these companies have complex corporate structures that defer taxes and pay dividends to shareholders who may not even live in Alberta.

In December, we saw the passion our community has for supporting local businesses through our Shop Local Holiday Box campaign. The goal of this campaign was to highlight a few of the many businesses operating in our borders in advance of the holiday season, and to encourage residents to support local.

The campaign reached more than 25,000 people on social media and sparked great community conversations. Community members were quick to share the names of their favourite local businesses, which we hope translated into sales for those businesses.

While the holiday season has come and gone, I'd like to encourage residents to carry this enthusiasm and support for local businesses with them throughout the year.

S I O N

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5



**Deputy Mayor
Deanna Stang**

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6



**Councillor
Jason Berry**

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As many of our residents are acutely aware, we are facing a significant drought this year across the province. This will impact all of us, but it will have a particularly significant impact on our agricultural producers.

The lack of moisture is predicted to impact crop yields and livestock health and could reduce water availability for our daily needs. With dry conditions comes an increased risk of wildfire.

In this newsletter, we are sharing information with you about the drought, how to conserve water, and how to reduce the risk of wildfire.

We urge you to be proactive, by conserving water and reducing unnecessary water use in your home. Start collecting rainwater to use in your landscaping, instead of tapping into the water systems. Every drop counts in water conservation efforts.

Sturgeon County is monitoring the situation closely, as is the province and groups like the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA). This group represents rural municipalities in Alberta and advocates at the provincial level for rural interests. RMA continues to advocate for drought recovery supports for agricultural producers and for provincial assistance when agricultural disasters are declared.

We are stronger when we work together. We are fortunate to also participate in the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM). I am proud to advocate at the federal level for rural interests and serve as the FCM representative for rural municipalities.

Community safety is a priority for Sturgeon County. During budget deliberations, I asked fellow Council members to support hiring a safe community facilitator, which will help identify solutions to crime reduction while enhancing community well-being and building trust with our residents. I am pleased that Council supported this vision.

The safe community facilitator will work closely with RCMP, Protective Services, Family and Community Support Services and community groups to support crime prevention. They will assess crime trends and community data and make recommendations for what we can do at the community level to reduce crime through programming and education. Learn more about the position on page 7.

When crime does happen in the community, we have confidence knowing victims are supported by Sturgeon Victim Services. This volunteer organization provides tremendous support to those dealing with difficult and often lifechanging events. It works alongside policing agencies to help victims through trauma and crisis, support them through court processes and help them access other resources. I'm proud to serve on the board of directors for Sturgeon Victim Services and am deeply grateful for the volunteers doing such important work.

Volunteers are the heartbeat of Sturgeon County and their dedication and selflessness enrich lives in countless ways. From supporting senior programming to distributing food at food banks, from influencing decisions on boards to watching over our neighborhoods as part of the Sturgeon Rural Crime Watch Association, volunteers play a pivotal role. Their contributions make Sturgeon County a better place for all of us. I extend my deepest gratitude to volunteers throughout our county. As we eagerly anticipate our annual appreciation event in May, let us continue to celebrate and honour the invaluable efforts of our volunteers who truly embody the spirit of community.

Resource extraction is an important industry in the County and particularly in division six. It creates jobs and generates money through a levy – the Community Aggregate Payment (CAP) Levy – that we use to fund roads and community services.

Sturgeon County recently made changes to its resource extraction committee. The Sand and Gravel Advisory Committee includes two Council members and five members of the public; at least one of these members must now represent division six. While industry representatives can participate in the meetings, they no longer have voting authority.

The committee advises Council on issues relating to resource extraction in the County. Members give input to Council on provincial and municipal resource extraction regulations and serve as a resource for information. They also make recommendations to Council for recipients of the Dale MacMillan Scholarship and advise Council on how CAP Levy funds should be distributed.

These funds have a significant impact on the community. Last year, Council distributed \$620,000 to support 29 local organizations, based on recommendations from Council committees. Most of this funding was provided through the CAP Levy, which is paid by sand and gravel extraction operators.

Sturgeon County's approach to resource extraction balances the economic benefits of sand and gravel extraction with the need to protect the environment and residents' quality of life. I encourage you to learn more at SturgeonCounty.ca/Resource-Extraction.



Cool Times at WINTERFEST

Despite the chilly temperatures, the warmth of community spirit shone bright as families and friends came together to create lasting memories at Winterfest on Jan. 19.

Many attendees shared that they had a fantastic experience, and the laughter, smiles, and joy that filled the evening were truly heartwarming.

From horse-drawn wagon rides and skating on the loop, to learning to be fearless in the forest, getting up close with a wolf, and tasting the delicious treats: there was something for everyone at Winterfest!

Special Thanks to Our Supporters

Sturgeon County extends a heartfelt thank you to all volunteers, vendors and entertainers who helped make Winterfest a success! Your generous contributions and support played a vital role in making this event possible. A special thank you goes out to generous community partners:

- Edmonton Regional Airports Authority
- NWR Partnership Inc.
- Life in the Heartland
- Cando Rail & Terminals
- Brownlee LLP
- Alberta's Industrial Heartland Association
- FortisAlberta



Teeing Off for a Great Cause at the Mayor's Golf Tournament

Mayor Alanna Hnatiw and Sturgeon County Council invite you to join them on Thursday, June 20, for an unforgettable day of golf, community spirit and giving back at the Sturgeon Valley Golf and Country Club.

With the generous support of corporate partners and community enthusiasts, we aim to raise vital funds to support local charities dedicated to making a difference.

This year we're supporting the following charity(s):

- Bon Accord/Gibbons Food Bank
- Morinville Food Bank
- Redwater Fellowship of Churches Food Bank
- St. Albert Food Bank
- CASA Mental Health

Expect a fun-filled day as golfers unite to support a common cause. Local businesses and industries play an integral role in the success of the event, taking the opportunity to showcase their brands throughout the tournament and creating a positive impact on the lives of our residents.

Visit SturgeonCounty.ca/MayorsGolf for all the details about the 2024 Mayor's Golf Tournament and to register. Partnership opportunities are available.

Scan this QR code with your smartphone camera for details or become an event partner.



New Position Focused on Community Safety

To feel at home in our community, residents need to feel safe.

While Sturgeon County is a safe community, rural crime is a concern for some residents. To help foster safe communities and reduce crime, the County recently welcomed a safe community facilitator to its team.

The position's key focuses are as follows:

- **Safety advocacy:** promote crime prevention strategies in the community.
- **Resource coordination:** collaborate with local authorities and community organizations to share important information.
- **Community building:** organize community events, meetings and workshops to foster strong social bonds, trust and a sense of belonging amongst residents.
- **Public communications:** support the development of crime prevention campaigns throughout the County.

This position will work closely with RCMP, Sturgeon County's Protective Services and Family and Community Support Services departments, and community groups to support crime prevention. They will assess crime trends and community data and make recommendations for what the County can do at the community level to reduce crime through programming and education.

This position will help identify solutions to crime reduction while enhancing community well-being.

The safe community facilitator position is based on a successful model used in the City of Brooks and Newell County in southern Alberta. Those municipalities have seen a reduction in crime because of the position and other supports.

Learn about crime prevention at SturgeonCounty.ca/Crime-Prevention.



Key contacts

In an emergency, call **911**.

Protective Services

protectsvcs@sturgeoncounty.ca
780-939-8400

Fort Saskatchewan RCMP

780-997-7900

Morinville RCMP

780-939-1600

Redwater RCMP

780-942-3607

Now Accepting Dust Suppression Applications

This spring and summer are forecasted to be extremely dry and Sturgeon County residents know all too well what this means for gravel roads: it's going to be dusty.

Applying dust suppression can reduce the impact of dust created by traffic on gravel roads. The cost to apply dust suppression is shared between the County and the resident.

The fees will vary depending on the type of suppressant used and the length of roadway it is applied to.

Sturgeon County's 2024 Dust Suppression Program is now accepting applications.

Residents who participated last year have already received their application form in the mail. New applicants can find the application form online at SturgeonCounty.ca/Dust. Applications must be submitted by **May 17**.



Scan this QR code with your smartphone camera to learn more about dust suppression.



Sturgeon's Agriculture Master Plan



A strategy to ensure agriculture thrives

Agriculture accounts for the largest land use by area in Sturgeon County, and it's the second largest contributor to our local and provincial economy.

The agricultural sector is influenced by many factors – local, regional, provincial, federal, and global – and our producers are proven masters in navigating these complexities. Sturgeon County can help by creating a place where agriculture and farm businesses are valued and prioritized. It can foster an environment where they can thrive, expand and diversify. This can be achieved through infrastructure investments, land use planning, emergency preparedness, community and social supports, conservation programs and other support services.

Sturgeon County is creating an Agriculture Master Plan (AMP), which is a strategy that will guide agriculture-related initiatives for the next 10 years. This will help guide the County's efforts to meet the needs of producers and support the growth of the agriculture industry.

It's important that Sturgeon County's plan reflects input from agricultural producers. The County is listening to producers, hearing their stories on successes and when they faced challenges. Those inputs are being collected and evaluated for trends or commonalities, which will inform the County's approach. For example, if several producers wanted to expand their operations but face infrastructure limitations nearby, the County could identify areas needing infrastructure improvements.

The plan is Sturgeon County's first attempt at creating a local vision and comprehensive strategy specific to its agricultural sector. In addition to considering input from producers, the plan will consider all previous local initiatives, like the Agribusiness and Agritourism Review Task Force, and other strategies and plans that apply to Sturgeon County, like the Regional Agricultural Master Plan (RAMP).

The regional plan – which is different from Sturgeon County's Agriculture Master Plan – was created by the Edmonton Metropolitan Region Board and approved by the Government of Alberta in December 2022. It outlines standards for agricultural policy for municipalities in the Edmonton region, but municipalities, like Sturgeon County, have some flexibility in how they implement these standards. This implementation will be guided by the priorities of local agricultural operators.

Engaging with the Community

In February and March, those in the agriculture sector were encouraged to attend workshops and share their experiences. The County also accepted feedback via an online survey. All input was reviewed, evaluated, and sorted into themes or trends. From there, possible recommendations were shared in a second round of sessions in April. Participants had a chance to make sure their contributions were accurately represented and to provide feedback on the proposed recommendations.

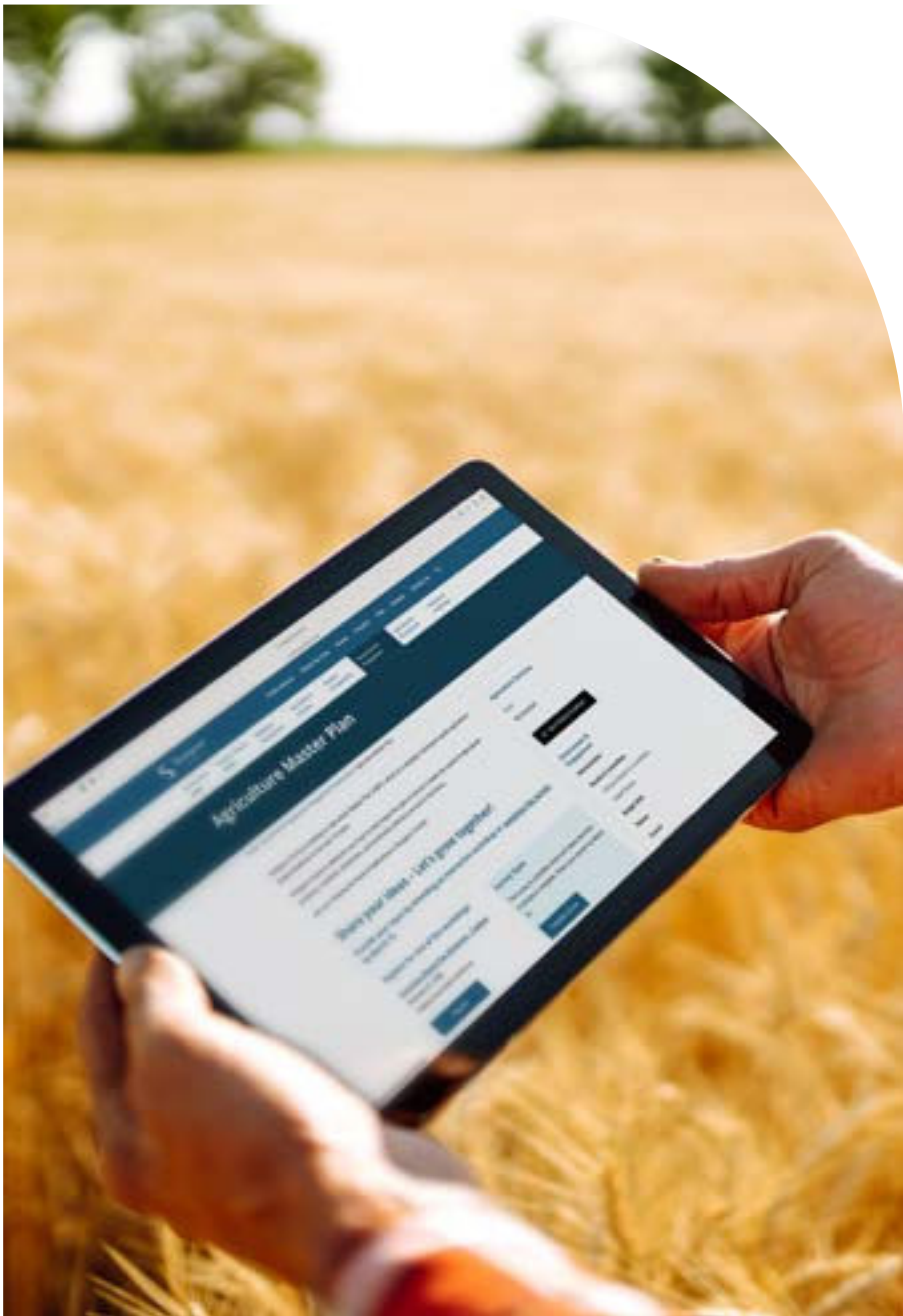
Next Steps

In June, a report will be presented to Council showcasing all work completed on the Agriculture Master Plan. Council will have a chance to provide input and direction.

It's no secret that in Sturgeon County, we grow — we grow amazing crops, we grow relationships, and we grow ideas. We hope to take you on the journey of growing the Sturgeon County Agriculture Master Plan. Visit SturgeonCounty.ca/Ag-Master-Plan for the latest information and opportunities to get involved in this exciting project.

Scan this QR code with your smartphone camera to learn more about Agriculture Master Plan.





Farming in the County

As of 2021, 747 farms operate in Sturgeon County. The types of farming are diverse and include:

- oilseed and grain farming
- cattle and other types of livestock production
- poultry and eggs
- vegetables, fruit and berry farms
- greenhouses
- specialty crop farming such as seed potatoes



Recognizing Great Neighbours

Community Spirit Awards recognize our most kind and generous citizens.

The Nominate-A-Neighbour program is a resident-led initiative where people can nominate a neighbour who has positively impacted their community. This program encourages residents to get to know each other and helps build strong and connected communities.

The award recognizes those who help others in need or those whose generosity and kindness are remarkable. Often, we think about rewarding someone who helps by shovelling snow, mowing lawns, or helping with household tasks. But nominations are also accepted for a child who spends time with an elderly neighbour, a teen who always lends a hand babysitting or a neighbour who always has the time to say 'hi'. There are many ways people contribute to making Sturgeon County a safe, welcoming, and inclusive community. And we want to celebrate them!

Nominations for the Nominate-A-Neighbour initiative are open year-round. Each month, the submissions are reviewed, and winners receive a card and small gift thanking them for being great neighbours.

Nominate your neighbour at SturgeonCounty.ca/Community-Spirit-Program.

Scan this QR code with your smartphone camera to learn more about the Community Spirit Award.



Fire Safety in Times of Drought

A simple spark can lead to a devastating wildfire, especially under dry or drought conditions. With lower precipitation this winter, there is a greater risk of wildfires.

To help ensure your homes, buildings and livelihoods aren't impacted by wildfire, get to know the different levels of fire advisories, restrictions, and bans, and always adhere to them when they're in effect.

Understanding Fire Advisories, Restrictions and Bans

A fire advisory, restriction or ban may be issued if the weather conditions or fire conditions are unsafe. If a fire advisory, restriction or ban is issued for Sturgeon County, it is posted to AlbertaFireBans.com and SturgeonCounty.ca/Fire-Bans.

Fire Advisory

Fire advisories let you know that there is an increased risk of fire and that restrictions may be placed on some types of burning.

Fire Restriction

During a fire restriction, some types of burning are not allowed while others can continue. Usually, fire pits are allowed, but open fires, burn barrels, incinerators and fireworks are not allowed. You should read the details of the fire restriction for specific instructions.

Fire Ban

During a fire ban, most types of fire use is not allowed, but you can generally use propane/natural gas barbecues and appliances and lawn mowers. You should read the details of the fire ban for specific instructions.

Fire Permits and Responsible Burning

Before enjoying a backyard fire pit, burning brush or creating a smudge for livestock, make sure you can maintain a safe fire.

Fire Permits

You also need to know the rules, as some fires need a fire permit and others do not.

Fire permits for **burn barrels** and **incinerators** are valid for one year from the date of application.

Fire permits for burning **garden/yard debris** are valid for 30 days at a time, year-round. They are valid for piles of garden/yard debris smaller than 12 feet long by 12 feet wide by six feet high.

Fire permits for **large brush piles**, windrow piles and structure fires are generally issued between December 1 and March 31 and need a site inspection from Emergency Services staff prior to being issued. Permits are valid for 30 days or until March 31st and can be issued on-site. They are valid for piles larger than 12 feet long by 12 feet wide by six feet high. These permits are not issued in multi-lot subdivisions.

You **do not** need a fire permit for an attended fire lit in an approved fire pit for recreation, cooking, or warming purposes.

Get a fire permit at Permitting.SturgeonServices.ca

Responsible Burning

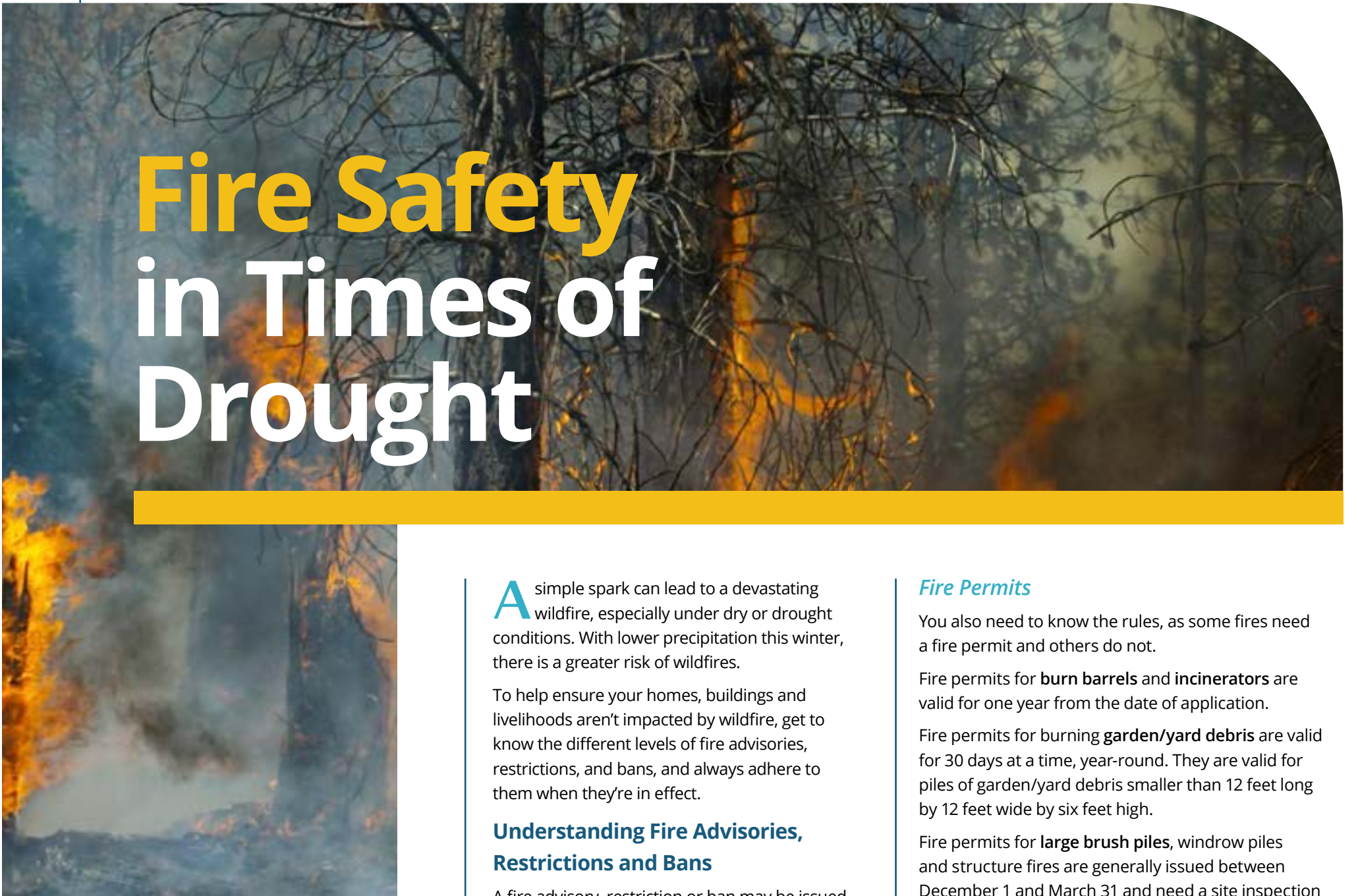
All open fires – except for campfires used for warming or cooking purposes – and burn barrels are allowed on lots larger than one acre.

Even when burning is allowed, it should be done responsibly, following the guidelines below:

- Do not burn in windy conditions (gusts higher than 15 kilometers per hour).
- Ensure you have tools and water to manage the fire.
- Maintain a safe distance from combustibles objects/materials, like a shed, trees or a fence.
- Ensure smoke does not impair visibility or cause discomfort to others nearby.
- Always ensure the fire is completely extinguished before leaving the site.

As a community, we must all take responsibility for fire safety. By staying informed, getting the necessary permits, and adhering to fire advisories, restrictions, and bans, we can protect our homes, our natural environment, and each other.

Scan this QR code with your smartphone camera to learn more about fire safety.



Our Wide-Open Spaces Sandy Lake Wilderness Area



One of the things that sets Sturgeon County apart is its wide-open spaces. These natural areas are environmental reserves and recreational spaces that residents can enjoy year-round.

The County is looking for ways to maintain these large open spaces for future generations while making them more accessible to residents today.

One such space is the Sandy Lake Wilderness Area, a 167-hectare natural area in the west of Sturgeon County. The County is exploring the idea of adding official trails, benches, or buildings to offer new amenities for residents to enjoy.

On June 8, 2021, Sturgeon County Council passed a motion to explore opportunities to enhance the use of the area.

To respond to this motion, the County is preparing the Sandy Lake Wilderness Area Concept and Natural Area Management Plan. This plan will address site management challenges and undertake an assessment of the space to ensure sensitive natural areas are protected.

Public feedback is vital to the success of this project. A workshop was held on Sept. 14, 2021, to gather input about how residents want to use the space. The County is also engaging Alexander First Nation about the traditional uses and cultural, ceremonial or sacred sites within the Sandy Lake area so it could protect those spaces.

As part of Phase 2 of the public engagement, the County will hold key stakeholder workshops at the end of April to ask how interested people and groups would like to be involved in managing the site. Involvement could be through ongoing maintenance, capital improvements (like picnic tables and shelters) or creating educational programming. An online survey is also available for County residents to share feedback on two draft concept plans focusing on conservation or recreation within the space.

Share your ideas for Sandy Lake!

Complete the online survey: SturgeonCounty.ca/SandyLake. The survey is open from April 22 to May 10, 2024.

Scan this QR code with your smartphone camera to learn more about Sandy Lake Wilderness Area.



Preparing for Drought

A Community Effort

Some may have embraced the El Nino effect and the warm, dry weather it brought us early this year. But it's become a concern for many as we anticipate how those conditions will impact wildfires, crops and livestock.

Generally, the province relies on melting snow and precipitation for most of its water. Without this melting snow and without significant rain, spring water levels could be dire. The province is potentially facing a significant drought this year.

To prepare for this, the provincial government has assembled a team of leaders with experience in agriculture, irrigation, and Indigenous, industry, rural and urban issues. Their task is to report what they're seeing and hearing to the Minister of Environment and Protected Areas, and help identify new ways to help Albertans.

Sturgeon County is aware of the potential for a drought and is monitoring the situation very closely. Its departments are developing strategies to minimize potential impacts on the County and its residents. The County is working with provincial partners and is including any information from the province in our planning.

Learn what you can do to prevent a wildfire during droughts on page 10.

Our Response to Water Shortages

When facing a water interruption or shortage, the County may request the public take action to conserve water. The County has the following three water demand measures:

- **Water Demand Measure A:** County activities, such as hydrant and sewer flushing and firefighting training, are paused. The public is not required to take action but may voluntarily take steps to conserve water.
- **Water Demand Measure B:** the County will ask residents to voluntarily reduce non-essential water use. Non-essential water use includes running a dishwasher, doing laundry, watering a lawn, washing a car, filling a pool, etc.
- **Water Demand Measure C:** this is the most serious water demand measure. Sturgeon County will impose a bylaw banning all non-essential potable water use. This is necessary to ensure there's enough water for essential needs and fire protection purposes.

Residents will be informed when these measures are put in place through the County's website and through social media.

Water Conservation Tips

Even a slight adjustment in your water use can help make sure there's enough water available for essential needs.

View water conservation tips at SturgeonCounty.ca/Water-Conservation

Scan this QR code with your smartphone camera to learn more about water conservation.



Indoors

- Fix leaks, including leaky toilets and faucets.
- Use dishwashers and washing machines with full loads only.
- Take shorter showers.
- Fill the sink instead of letting the water run when washing dishes.
- Keep a jug of cool water in the fridge instead of running the tap to get it cold.

Outdoors

- Sturgeon County is selling rain barrels this spring; this is an excellent way to conserve any rainwater to use in gardening containers.
- Water your lawn no more than necessary, and water early in the morning or evening to reduce evaporation.
- Check for leaks on outdoor pipes, hoses and faucets.
- Clean outside areas with a broom instead of a hose.
- Plant drought-tolerant species in gardens.

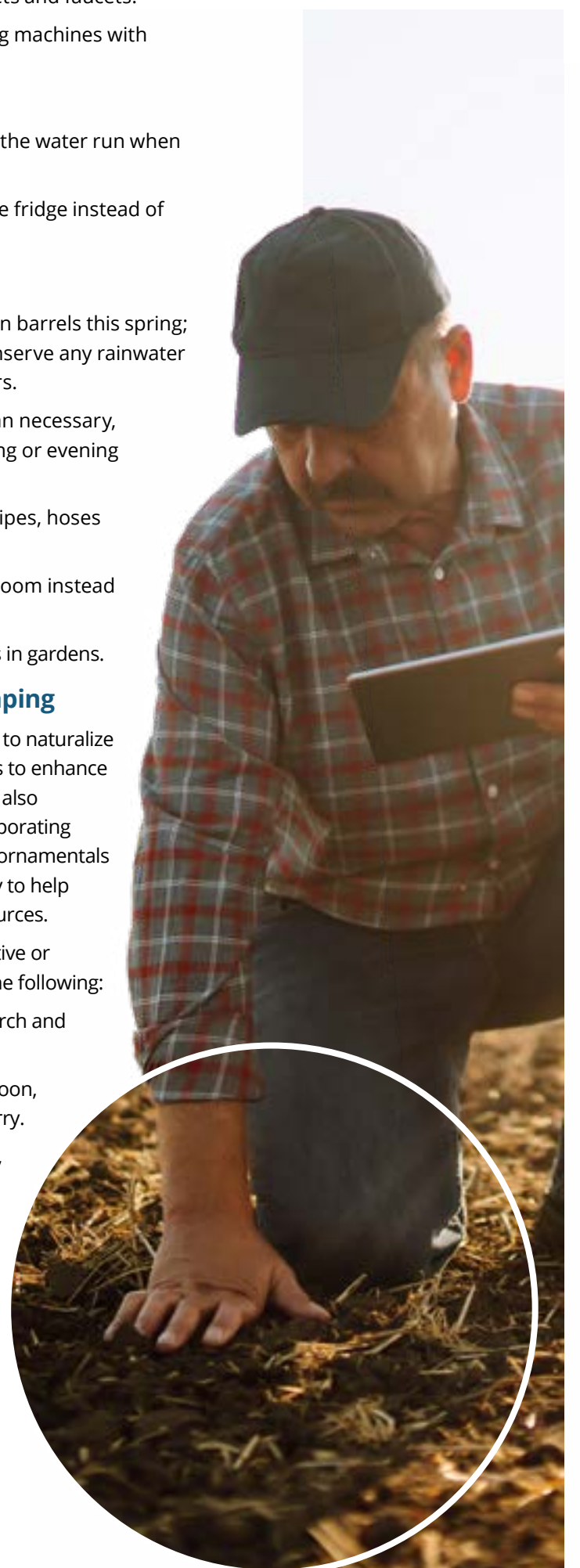
Drought-Friendly Landscaping

Sturgeon County has been working to naturalize some of our parks and open spaces to enhance wildlife and pollinator habitat while also improving drought resiliency. Incorporating native plants and drought-tolerant ornamentals into your landscaping is a great way to help reduce pressure on our water resources.

If you're thinking of switching to native or drought-tolerant plants, consider the following:

- Trees: pine, poplar, siberian larch and willow bur oak.
- Shrubs: potentilla, lilac, saskatoon, spirea, juniper and buffalo berry.
- Perennials: yarrow, stonecrop, snow-in-summer, sea holly, daylily, gaillardia, peony, creeping thyme and russian sage.

Learn more about plant species that are hardy in Alberta at awes-ab.ca/species.





Come One, Come All to County Bounty

Mark your calendars for Sturgeon County's most anticipated event!

County Bounty will be back on July 11 and 12, but with a different venue this year, due to planned road construction in Cardiff Park (see page 18 for more details). Full event plans will be shared to SturgeonCounty.ca/CountyBounty.

You don't want to miss this free, two-day family-friendly extravaganza celebrating the Sturgeon County community

- Prepare your taste buds for a culinary journey with a variety of locally produced food.
- Get ready to tap your toes and rock to the rhythm with live music and entertainment.
- Bring the kids – or the kids at heart – to meet furry friends at the petting zoo, bounce with joy through giant inflatables, and have a blast playing fun and interactive games.
- Shop till you drop at the vendor village showcasing local businesses, producers, and artisans.
- Socialize with friends while sipping a brew in our beer gardens hosted by the local Rotary Club of Morinville/ Sturgeon
- And so much more!

There's something for everyone at County Bounty. We can't wait to see you there!

Scan this QR code with your smartphone camera for event details.





THE DEADLINE FOR TAX PAYMENTS IS FRIDAY, JUNE 28, 2024

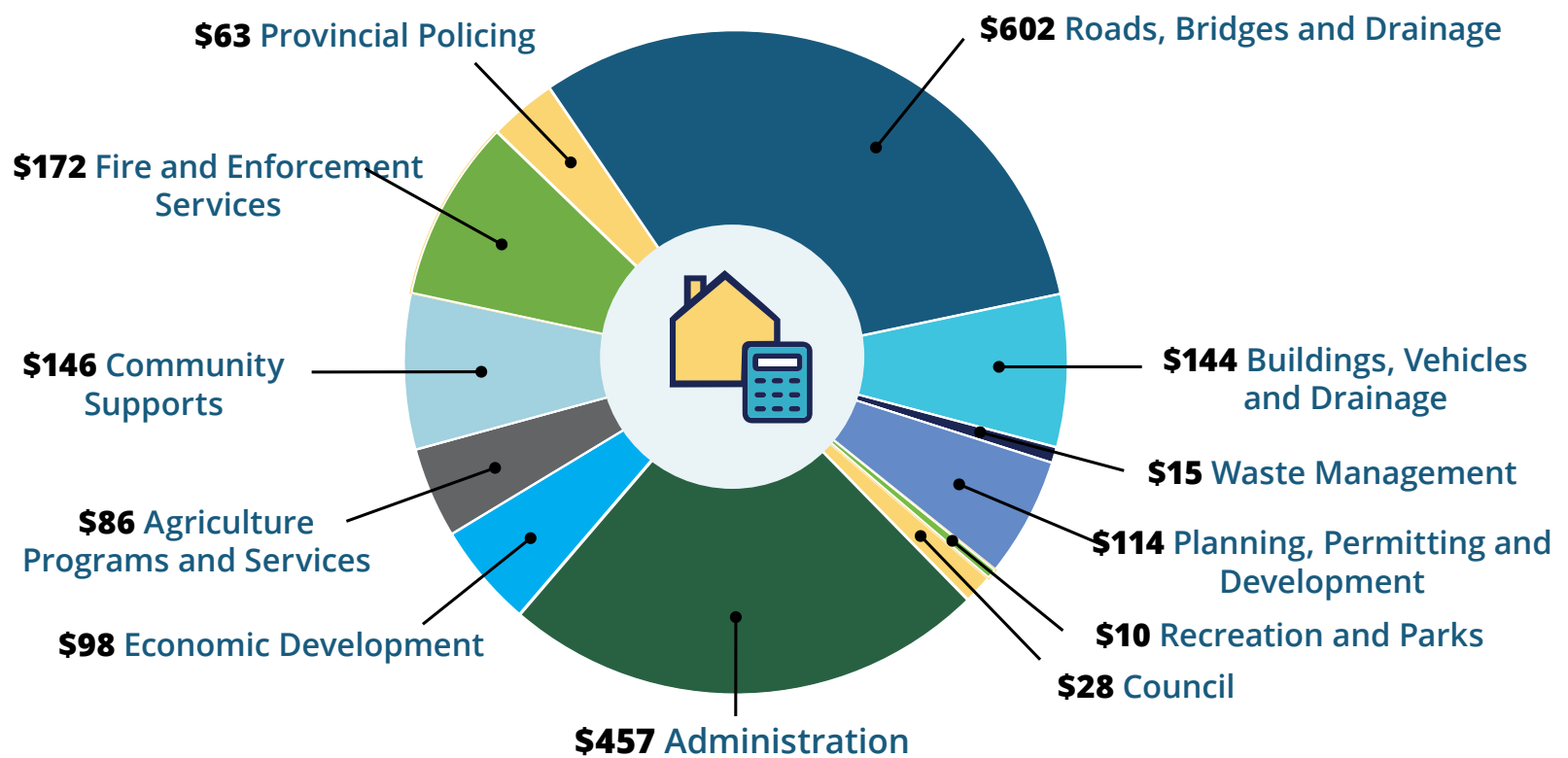
Understanding Your 2024 Property Taxes

2024 Property Tax Increase: 1.37%

Where Your Property Taxes Go

Property taxes help pay for municipal services, including bylaw officers and fire protection, road maintenance, snow clearing, and investments in parks, roads, bridges, and drainage infrastructure.

If a typical home is assessed at **\$500,000**, the average municipal property tax bill would be about **\$1,935** in 2024. Here is a breakdown of where that money goes.

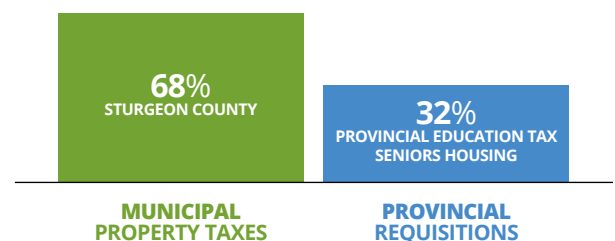


Funding Regional Services Through Your Taxes

Most of the property taxes you pay fund services provided by Sturgeon County. However, a portion of your taxes are used to fund regional services, like education and seniors' care, and are collected on behalf of the Government of Alberta.

The taxes charged by other authorities have increased substantially over the past decade. The County does not control the amount charged or how those amounts are distributed in the region.

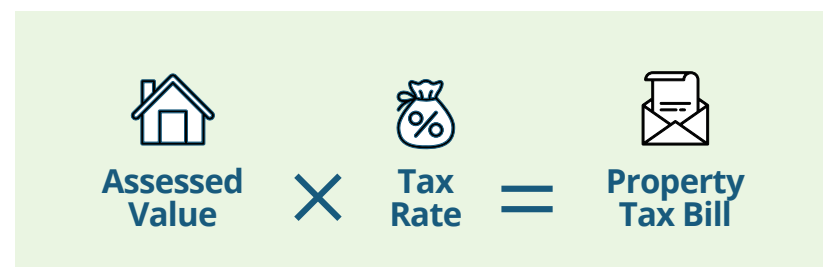
YOUR TAXES INCLUDE:



How Your Property Taxes Are Calculated

The municipal tax rate is determined each year by calculating the amount of money needed to operate the municipality and subtracting the revenues generated (for example, licences, grants and permits). The remainder is the amount of money the municipality needs to raise through property taxes in order to provide the programs and services for the year.

The municipal tax rate is multiplied by your assessed value to determine your property taxes.



About Your Property Assessment

Your Property's Assessed Value

It is important to review your property assessment details to ensure they are accurate. Contact us to report any discrepancies before filing a formal complaint. The deadline to file a complaint is Tuesday, July 23, 2024.

Your property's 2023 assessment value is directly influenced by local real estate market conditions and features of your property like, land size, location, number of buildings, including their size, quality, and condition. For your 2024 taxes, the median market value of a residential home in Sturgeon County increased by 3.5 per cent. Your property taxes are impacted by the municipal tax levy according to your property assessment and tax classification (residential, non-residential, or farmland), and the provincial requisitions (seniors housing and education tax). Since no two properties are exactly alike, your property value and taxes are likely different than your neighbour's.

Use the interactive map to view local property assessment details at

SturgeonCounty.ca/PropertyMap

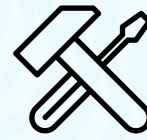


Questions?

Contact Assessment Services

assessment@sturgeoncounty.ca | 780-939-0601

SturgeonCounty.ca/Assessment



Supplementary Assessment and Taxes

Supplementary assessment identifies the increase in property value when new construction or improvements are completed in the current tax year.

Supplementary assessment notices are mailed to affected property owners in the fall and payments are due in accordance with the Property Tax Penalty Bylaw. These notices indicate the property taxes you owe based on the new improvement(s). The existing land value was already included in the annual assessment and taxation.



Local Improvement Charges

A local improvement charge is a tax applied to properties that will benefit from improvements, such as new sewer lines or sidewalks, in a specific area. This tax pays for the capital costs of the improvements. It is different from a municipal tax because it only applies to properties that benefit from the improvements, and it is only charged for a specific time. This program can be initiated by the property owners and managed by the municipality. A listing of current Local Improvement Charges can be found on the website at SturgeonCounty.ca/Taxes.



Payment Options



IN PERSON

at Sturgeon County Centre. 9613 100 St. in Morinville. We accept cash, debit, money order, or cheque made payable to Sturgeon County.



DROP OFF BOX

at Sturgeon County Centre. Include your tax bill remittance portion and do not put cash in the drop off box.



BANK OR FINANCIAL INSTITUTION

You are responsible for understanding the processing fees and timelines.



THIRD PARTY PAYMENT PROCESSOR

Pay by credit card using processors like paysimply.ca.



JOIN TAX INSTALMENT PAYMENT PLAN (TIPP)

Sign up to pay your taxes monthly instead of a single payment. Payments are automatically withdrawn.

SturgeonCounty.ca/TIPP

OUTSTANDING BALANCES

A 6% penalty is applied to any unpaid balances on July 1 and again on August 1, 2024. A 12% penalty will be applied to remaining balances on March 1, 2025.

Community Members a Critical Resource for Economic Development

* BOARD HIGHLIGHT Economic Development Advisory Board

With a mission to support economic development in the County, the Economic Development Advisory Board is a key resource for Council and administration.

The board provides input on economic development, marketing and promotion, investment attraction, retention and expansion of existing businesses, and other development opportunities which could make the County a more attractive place to start and grow a business.

The board includes two Council members – Mayor Alanna Hnatiw and Councillor Kristin Toms – and 10 members of the public. These representatives have a wide range of experiences and perspectives related to economic development, and they provide tremendous insight for Council’s consideration. The members have backgrounds in agriculture, engineering, procurement, construction, technology, oil and gas, insurance, small business and more!

“This board – like all our advisory boards and committees – represents a wide range of voices in the community and provides critical perspectives to Council that influence our decisions,” said Mayor Alanna Hnatiw. “Its recommendations help us create and maintain a nurturing environment where businesses of all sizes and sectors can thrive.”

So far this year, the board worked alongside the Agricultural Services Board to provide input into the Agriculture Master Plan (see more on page 8). This input was focused on the economic components of the plan, including how the County can strengthen its support for diversified agriculture.

In the year ahead, the board is laser focused on supporting business development and growth in the County. It will direct its efforts to developing incentives for small and medium enterprises, which builds on a previous recommendation the board provided to Council.

The board will also provide recommendations to Council on ways to combat rural crime impacting local businesses, build connections with youth in the community, and help shape the County’s digital services.

Some of the group’s key accomplishments in the past year include providing input on the Economic Marketing Strategy, researching and connecting with local businesses about the impacts of rural crime and what can be done in response. The board continues to explore the business landscape in Sturgeon County and seek ways to support innovation and growth.

Learn more about Sturgeon County’s boards and committees at [SturgeonCounty.ca/Boards](https://sturgeoncounty.ca/Boards).



County Wins Minister's Award For Transportation Innovation



Sturgeon County's work with geocells has been recognized with the Minister's Award for Transportation Innovation in the Design Innovation category.

Geocells, which act as a reinforcing grid, are used to make the ground more stable. They were used in a portion of the 4.1 kilometre road rehabilitation project along Township Road 544 near Range Road 260 and the ProNorth Industrial Park, constructed in 2022.

During construction, the County discovered that a 1.3 kilometre section of Township Road 544 had unsuitable wet soils and deeper excavation would be needed if traditional road construction methods were used. This would have created a much larger disturbance, likely extending beyond the County road right of way.

Sturgeon County partnered with Paradox Access Solutions, Stratum Logics, and a team from the University of Victoria to approve the use of geocells in the road base. Since construction finished in 2022, teams from the University of Victoria and Stratum Logics have been gathering data from in-ground sensors to monitor traffic and track temperatures.

The data shows that we are experiencing more freeze-thaw cycles and confirms that areas with geocells are successfully draining water. This means there will be less damage to the road as a result of freezing and thawing, and there will be less road maintenance needed in the years ahead.



Understanding Your Utility Charges

More than 2,600 customers rely on Sturgeon County for quality water they need to carry out their daily activities. The County works hard to guarantee reliable, cost-effective and – most importantly – safe drinking water.

Last year, the County reviewed its water and wastewater assets and the cost of services. The County is committed to operational excellence and providing a high level of service at a fair price, which can be achieved by regularly conducting rate studies and updating the fee schedule as needed.

The review found that overall, the County's assets are in good shape. It also recommended a slight adjustment in rates.

Learn more about utility rates at SturgeonCounty.ca/Accounts-Rates.

Scan this QR code with your smartphone camera to learn more about utility rates.



WATER RATES EXPLAINED

Most residential customers have seen a **decrease** of nearly 18 per cent in their fixed water rates, from \$24.75 to \$20.32 per month. Under the new structure, customers are charged a fixed rate based on their meter size; the meter size for most residential customers is under one inch.

Residential customers have also seen a **decrease** in their variable water charges. The County has removed consumption tiers so all residential customers now pay the same rate per unit of water used. The new rate is \$3 per unit of water used. Previously, customers paid \$3.43 per unit when they used less than 30 cubic metres per month and \$4.20 per unit for any additional water use.

WASTEWATER RATES EXPLAINED

Fixed wastewater rates have also increased. Most residential customers' fixed wastewater rates **increased** from \$28.50 to \$31.66.

Residential wastewater variable rates also changed. All residential customers are charged \$2.84 per cubic metre; this is only a slight increase from the previous variable rates, which were \$2.57 for low pressure customers and \$2.74 for gravity customers.

No tax dollars are used to fund water and wastewater services. All costs incurred are charged back to the customer for full cost recovery, and any profits are transferred into a reserve fund used to offset or stabilize rates in future years.



Road Work Ahead

Roads connect us — they weave our neighbourhoods together, link us to vital services, and help drive economic growth. It is no wonder then, that Sturgeon County has committed more than \$30 million in 2024 to provide safe and reliable infrastructure.

“Our residents care deeply about having safe roads that are well maintained,” said Mayor Alanna Hnatiw. “These construction projects are paving the way for safer, smoother trips and a more connected community.”

Pavement Preservation Program

2024 is a big year for the County's Pavement Preservation Program: Council allocated \$4 million for the proactive maintenance of area roads. This is the biggest investment in the program to date and will extend the lifespan of various roads.

The County uses vehicles equipped with specialized scanners that can assess road surface conditions. That data is collected and used to determine which roads should be prioritized for preservation. The list of roads selected for this program will be posted to SturgeonCounty.ca/Projects when the program launches this spring.

Sturgeon Road Roundabout

Safety is top of mind when the County's Transportation and Engineering department considers its projects. This is evident in the Sturgeon Valley where two of Sturgeon County's busiest roads meet: at Sturgeon Road and Range Road 250. To address safety concerns at this T-intersection and to better manage traffic volumes, a new roundabout will be constructed. Valley residents are familiar with roundabouts; this will be the second one along Sturgeon Road and will greatly improve safety.

Paving Projects

Cardiff Park is celebrating 40 years in 2024, so it is fitting that major road upgrades are taking place this year. The County will rehabilitate

the interior park road and rebuild the full road structure, and pave **Range Road 251** from Cardiff Road to Township Road 552. The work on Range Road 251 is another step towards providing a fully paved stretch of road from Cardiff Road to Highway 37, which is a priority in the Transportation Master Plan. Prior notice will be given if any temporary road closures are needed.

A substantial paving project is planned north of Gibbons along **Township Road 564** on both sides of Highway 28. On the west side of the highway, crews will rebuild 500 metres of the road structure on Township Road 564 and on the east side of the highway, the County will rehabilitate 1.6 kilometres of the road with structural upgrades. There are a few subdivisions in this area that will be detoured for a short period of time, and information will be shared with those residents in advance of construction.

Bridge Projects

While most people know about the Sturgeon River, the County has a surprisingly large inventory of more than 140 bridge structures! Most of them are bridge culverts and this year, five will be replaced.

It will be a busy season with road construction and preventative programs, but staying informed about projects in your area has never been easier! Visit SturgeonCounty.ca/Construction and subscribe to get project updates delivered each week to your inbox. You can sign up for project updates for projects in your division, or throughout the County.

Scan this QR code with your smartphone camera to learn more about 2024 road projects.





The Dale MacMillan Memorial Scholarship

The Impact on a Student's Educational Journey

Dr. Barbara Ziesman is busy these days as a director within the Crops and Irrigation division within the Government of Saskatchewan's Ministry of Agriculture.

But back in 2014, Barbara was a student and a recipient of the Dale MacMillan Memorial Scholarship for Community Leadership.

A resident of Sturgeon County, she had held a variety of community service roles. Most of them involved working with children through the International Children's Festival, volunteering through Big Brothers Big Sisters of Canada and participating as a judge in the 2017 Canada Wide Science Fair when she moved to Regina, Saskatchewan for work.

When she was awarded the scholarship, Barbara was a student working on a Master of Science degree in plant pathology. The Dale MacMillan scholarship allowed her to continue her education, and she acknowledges that without the financial support, her educational journey would have taken a different course.

But it was Dale MacMillan's family that had the most impact on Barbara, even after all this time.

"Meeting the MacMillan family when I received this scholarship is something that I still remember even after several years," said Barbara. "I truly appreciate that the MacMillan family took the time to meet with the scholarship recipients personally."

She later transferred into a doctoral program and completed her PhD in plant pathology in 2016.

Barbara's professional career started in 2015 when she moved to Regina to work with the Government of Saskatchewan's Ministry of Agriculture. Her work has included roles as the provincial oilseed specialist, provincial plant disease specialist, director of the research unit within the ministry's Research branch and, most recently, the director of production technology within the ministry's Crops and Irrigation branch.

With a young child at home, Barbara doesn't have much free time for volunteering, but she knows it will always be part of her life. She hopes to find volunteer opportunities in the future.

Barbara wants to leave Sturgeon County students with one piece of advice: "Do not let fear hold you back and approach all new opportunities with an open mind."

Scan this QR code with your smartphone camera to learn more about the scholarship.



Cardiff Park Is 40 Years Young!



There are whispered tales, passed down through families, of spooky ghost stories about the former mine site. They have noticed strange things like sightings of old miners hanging around the area, perhaps waiting for their shift to start or taking a break after a long day underground.

The tall grasses rustling in the wind, birds singing from the trees, children playing happily and the soft splash as paddles hit the water: this is what you'll find in a beloved space for Sturgeon County residents.

It's Cardiff Park. A 130-hectare (320-acre) park with a 65-hectare (160-acre) recreational area that serves as a meeting place for friends and a welcoming spot for festivals and events throughout the year.

In 2024, the park is celebrating 40 years. The area has had quite the transformation to become the treasured recreational space it is now.

Early Beginnings

Coal was the pivotal discovery in 1895 that spurred development in the Cardiff area. Thanks to the abundance of coal, the area earned its namesake from Cardiff, the capital of Wales, renowned as a coal mining hub.

The Cardiff Coal Company and Banner Coal Ltd. operated underground mines on what is now the Cardiff Golf & Country Club, while the third mine, owned by the Alberta Coal Mining Company, had its mine on what is now Cardiff Park.

Over time, the mines gradually scaled back their operations and eventually ceased production as natural gas rose in popularity.

In the late 1970s, the development of Cardiff

Echoes began. The developer believed all 274 single-family homes could be built by 1980. A November 21, 1979, article from the St. Albert & Sturgeon Gazette explained that a park and a golf course were already being built on the reclaimed mine site. The article notes that the area became known for cross-country skiing and the annual Sturgeon Snow Golf Competition.

In 1975, the Cardiff Community Club was created. According to the newspaper article, the club was focused on promoting better recreational facilities in Cardiff with a sports ground and community centre. Early residents were already using the area for recreation — they swam in the summer and skated in the winter at the "drag-line," a deep body of water on the old mine holdings.

Community Gathering Place

Fast forward to 2024 and the park offers three playgrounds, horseshoe pits, volleyball courts, full-size soccer pitches, softball/slow-pitch diamonds and Cardiff Park Pond.

You'll find rolling hills with islands of trees, saskatoon berry bushes, Alberta wild rose and other native tree species. At the south end of the park, you'll find a naturalization space promoting biodiversity in tree species.

Cardiff Park is a popular destination year-round. In addition to the many amenities, you can fish in the stocked pond – you'll find rainbow trout,

tiger trout and brown trout – rent a kayak to enjoy a serene paddle or take a nice walk on the scenic paved trails. There are many events held in Cardiff Park, including County Bounty (see more on page 13).

In the winter, there are plenty of activities to help you maintain an active lifestyle. Bring your cross-country skis on the trails or lace up your skates for a spin at the always popular Cardiff Park Skating Trail. It's just over a kilometre long, offering skaters a chance to glide through the trees. If you visit in the late afternoon, the ice will be illuminated by twinkling lights.

Sturgeon County was pleased to give the community a chance to experience all that Cardiff Park has to offer in the winter months with Winterfest, held in January (see more on page 6).

Cardiff Park is part of Sturgeon County's commitment to thriving communities and the County is committed to conserving this area for future generations.

Road Construction in Cardiff Park

This summer, the County will rehabilitate the interior park road and rebuild the full road structure. See page 18 for details.



Supporting Your Upcoming Building Projects

Have you spent the cold winter months dreaming of getting outdoors and expanding their backyard oasis?

Whether you're building a pool to cool off on a hot summer day, a garage for your tools and projects, a deck to host gatherings with friends or family, or a hot tub to soak in after a hard day of work, the County has you covered!

Sturgeon County will guide you through the process and identify any local or provincial approvals you may need for your specific project, which ensure that safety is maintained and that our communities are supported with orderly development. Contact Planning and Development Services at pandd@sturgeoncounty.ca or **780-939-8275** to get started.

Depending on the size or height, you may not need a permit to build a deck/patio or shed. You normally don't need a permit when building a fence, but are encouraged to discuss your project with the County to clarify any requirements. If you are planning to install a hot tub or outdoor pool that is deeper than 0.6 metres (two feet), you'll need a building permit and electrical permit if there is any electrical work.

Permits may be needed for other projects too, such as stripping and grading your land, developing your basement, building an addition to your home or building a new home.

Learn more about specific projects at [SturgeonCounty.ca/Building-Renovating](https://sturgeoncounty.ca/Building-Renovating). Contact Planning and Development Services at pandd@sturgeoncounty.ca or **780-939-8275**.

Scan this QR code with your smartphone camera to learn more about development and safety codes permits.



Did You Know...

Did you know that provincial and federal regulations require municipalities to ensure residents get development and building (safety code) permits?

Understanding Development and Building Permits

You now know that some of your projects may need a building or development permit, and you may be wondering what the difference is.

A *development permit* ensures the proposed work complies with the County's Land Use Bylaw. The Land Use Bylaw guides development in Sturgeon County, and sets standards for development. For example, it makes sure projects are appropriately set back from a property line, the size of the project fits in the area, and that the type of use being proposed is allowed in the land use district/zone.

Building or safety code permits – including building electrical, plumbing and private sanitary system permits – must comply with the Alberta Building Code. The Government of Alberta sets Safety Code standards that help keep you safe. Safety code permits are issued by contractors working for the County. Before issuing a permit, these agencies inspect the work to make sure the construction or renovation project meets the code.

Permit Process: What to Expect

You're ready to make your dream a reality! Now, it's time to get the project started — applications and supporting documents are available at SturgeonCounty.ca/Permits-Policies.

- First, apply for a development permit. All you'll need to provide is a plan or drawing of your project, a site plan identifying where the development is located on your property, a land title pulled within the last 30 days, and an abandoned oil well declaration and map. The fees for your application will depend on the type of project you are undertaking.
- Once the development permit is issued, apply for the required building and safety code permit(s). The fees for your application will depend on the type of project you are undertaking.

Once both the development permit and the necessary safety code permits are approved and you've received a copy, you can get to work!

No matter your project, Sturgeon County is here to help you through the process and is available to answer any questions that you have.



Supporting Community and Growth

Sturgeon County's Corporate Business Plan charts a course for economic prosperity and community well-being while underscoring the County's commitment to environmental stewardship and operational excellence.

The plan details the projects being undertaken now and into the future that will help achieve Council's vision for the future. A vision that's as bold as it is thoughtful, ensuring that as the County grows, it does so with a keen eye on the legacy it leaves behind.

Below is a small glimpse of the projects planned in Sturgeon County in the months and years to come; learn more at SturgeonCounty.ca/Strategic-Planning.

Economic Innovation

The County is focussed on several key projects that support economic growth and development. Work is underway on the next phase of development at the Villeneuve Airport, which involves advancing regional partnerships and attracting investment to the area.

Alberta's Industrial Heartland is critical to Sturgeon County's success, and water is critical to the success of industry. The County is working to ensure that industry water needs are addressed now and long into the future.

These projects exemplify the County's commitment to sustainable development, attracting investment, and creating a dynamic business environment that nurtures both new and established businesses.

Community Well-Being

The County's dedication to enhancing the quality of life for its residents is evident through programs like the Living Well Counselling Service and ongoing investment in parks and open spaces. The County is working with municipal neighbours to reach agreements that will help residents access quality, cost-effective recreation amenities and services. These exemplify the County's commitment to ensuring all residents enjoy a vibrant, healthy life in Sturgeon County.

Environmental Stewardship

The County is dedicated to a sustainable and environmentally responsible future. It's developing an Agriculture Master Plan

which chart the course for efforts to support producers and help the agriculture sector thrive in the County. Learn more on page 8.

The County continues to support the Clean Energy Improvement Program, which connects residents and businesses to financial and other resources to make energy efficient building improvements. Learn more at SturgeonCounty.ca/CEIP.

Improving Infrastructure and Services

As we look to the future, projects like the broadband phased implementation and asset management are set to strengthen infrastructure and enhance connectivity in the County. These initiatives not only improve the quality of life for residents but also lay the foundation for continued economic growth and prosperity.

Additional projects that support improved infrastructure and services include the digital permitting system, which will enable residents and businesses to apply for development-related permits online.

Listening To and Learning from Residents

County residents play an important role in the County's future. The County will look to residents to share their insights about how they want to receive information and provide input to the County as part of a comprehensive communications audit. The County is also working to develop an engagement framework, which sets standards for when the County will involve the public in decision making.

Through strategic planning, collaborative effort, and a deep commitment to its values, the County is not only facing the challenges of tomorrow, but seizing the opportunities they present to create a legacy of resilience, sustainability, and community pride for generations to come.

Scan this QR code with your smartphone camera to view the Corporate Business Plan.



Celebrating Pinewood Community Revitalization Through Recreation



GRAND OPENING CELEBRATION

is being held on:

June 1, 2024

2 - 5 p.m.

Pinewood Community Hall
305 Maple Drive in Opal, AB

Since 1992, the Pinewood Hall Association has been making connections and having fun. Association volunteers developed and operated an outdoor rink, a small playground and a community hall for neighbours to enjoy.

However, as families aged and the neighbourhood changed, it became harder to find volunteers to run the rink and community hall. The group asked Sturgeon County to take over the outdoor rink, hall and equipment operations, but Council was hopeful the association would thrive again with a little help.

Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) staff worked with Pinewood residents to form a not-for-profit organization, which is eligible for community grants from various levels of government that can help fund facility repairs and maintenance. Pinewood residents rallied together to form the Pinewood Hall Association, which was incorporated in May 2019. The group resumed operations and maintenance of the playground, outdoor rink and hall.

“This hard work and collaboration is what Sturgeon County is all about. It demonstrates how we are stronger together,” said Mayor Alanna Hnatiw.

“Partnerships like these, between the municipality and residents, are integral to building thriving and vibrant communities.”

Neighbourhood volunteers worked hard to get the community hall operational again. After several upgrades to the building, including re-leveling the building, reinforcing floors, replacing windows, rebuilding the deck, adding a new roof and upgrading lighting, it is now available for rent for events like birthday parties, family reunions and community meetings.

The playground structure was replaced in 2023 thanks in part to funding from Sturgeon County and grants awarded through the provincial FCSS Community Facility Enhancement Program. Community members donated their time and labour to install the new playground equipment.

Multi-Use Trail

Another welcome addition to the community is a multi-use trail through the Woodridge and Pinewood Estates subdivisions. The 1.55-kilometre trail runs from Erikson Road to Highway 651 on Sturgeon County parkland.

This trail segment is part of the Trans Canada Trail – which spans the nation – and the Athabasca Landing Trail, which is a 150-kilometre trail from Fort Saskatchewan to the Town of Athabasca. The project cost more than \$450,000 and was funded by the Trans Canada Trail through Parks Canada and the Alberta Trail Net Society, along with a \$50,000 contribution from Sturgeon County.

“Our success comes from partnerships, and the Pinewood/Woodridge Trail project demonstrates how partnering with the community, not-for-profit organizations and other levels of government can directly benefit Sturgeon County residents,” said Hnatiw. “Expanding the trail system helps residents connect to the people, places, and spaces they value most.”

Congratulations to the Pinewood Hall Association for its hard work and collaboration with Sturgeon County and Alberta Trail Net.



**SUMMER
GUIDE
COMING
IN JUNE!**

HOW TO REGISTER:

Online:

SturgeonCounty.ca/Programs

In-Person:

Sturgeon County Family and Community Support Services
9608 100 St. in Morinville.

Office Is open Monday to Friday
From 8:30 a.m. to noon and 12:30 to 4:30 p.m.

By Phone:

Call 780-939-8334

SturgeonCounty.ca/Programs

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

YOUTH

Free Youth Swim (Ages 13 – 17 yrs)

Get ready to dive into fun during Youth Week! This program is all about celebrating youth and having a great time with creative additions to a normal swim, teens will have the chance to unwind and have fun.

Date: Friday, May 3
Time: 5-8pm
Location: Edmonton Garrison Fitness Centre
Cost: Free



**Boys Rock Climbing Therapy
Ages (8 - 11 & 12-15 yrs)**

Rock climbing therapy is an engaging experience for individuals who may not be as drawn to traditional talk therapy methods and can be particularly engaging for boys. Unleash your inner strength, conquer obstacles, and cultivate resilience with rock climbing therapy!

Location: Edmonton Garrison Fitness Centre
Date: Saturday, May 11
Time: Ages 8-11, 9:30 -11:30 a.m.
Ages 12-15, 1 - 3 p.m.

Fee: \$5 / Registration Required
Permission forms must be completed by parents/guardians

ADULT

Anxious Children & Empowered Parents (Ages 16+)

Have you noticed a child experience stomach aches, loss of appetite, nausea, headaches, display anger/irritability, have increased energy, struggle with focus, display avoidance, and/or have poor sleep, etc.? This may be anxiety. This workshop is appropriate for parents, caregivers, educators, childcare and/or mental health professionals and participants will learn how they can help children better manage anxiety.

Location: FCSS Hub, 9608-100 Street, Morinville, AB
Date: Thursday, May 9
Time: 6 - 8 p.m.
Fee: Free / Registration Required

FAMILY

Learn to Play Pickleball

Discover the joy of one of the fastest-growing sports in the world! Pickleball is a fantastic way to stay active, socialize, and have fun on the court. Whether you're new, a beginner or looking to refine your skills, this workshop is perfect for you.

Location: Riviere Qui Barre Gym, 145A-26500 Hwy 44, Sturgeon County
Date: Monday, June 3
Time: 1 - 4 p.m.
Fee: Free / Registration Required

Dream Catcher Creation Workshop (Ages 16+)

You will be guided through the creation of your own personal dream catcher. While creating, participants will learn the traditions of the dream catcher in indigenous culture and discuss the benefits of connecting to the natural world, circular symbolism and transmutation of negative thoughts and patterns.

Location: FCSS Hub, 9608-100 Street, Morinville, AB
Date: Thursday, June 20
Time: 6:30 -8:30 p.m.
Fee: \$5.00 / Registration Required