

VILLAGE OF COUTTS NEWSLETTER



MAY 2021



ANNOUNCEMENTS

DOGS

Please pick up after your pets. I'm once again getting complaints of residents not picking up after pets. This is required if you walk your dog on ball diamonds as well. Also, the yearly dog license fees are due. \$5 for neutered or spade, and \$30 for intact. Please always walk your dogs with a leash.

MASKS

The Village Office has a supply of masks, stop in and pick up yours.

YARD WASTE

Yard waste in brown recyclable bags will be picked up Monday mornings. If you are cutting branches etc and do not have a way to get them to the transfer station, call the office and we can arrange to have our dump trailer spotted at your residence for you to load.

SIDEWALK MAINTENANCE

The Village has purchased a lawn edger. You will see public works employees reclaiming the sidewalks. Many yards have the grass growing onto the sidewalk. Throughout the summer, you may notice your lawn cut back to the inside edge of the sidewalk.

SEWER LAGOON

You may have noticed the Hydro Vac Truck down at the sewer lagoon earlier this week. One of the manholes was plugged. The items that were dug out were, clothing, brown paper towel, j-cloths, and many other items that should not be flushed down the toilet. PLEASE, DO NOT flush anything other than toilet paper down your toilet.

SCAM CALLS

If you have an incoming call and do not recognize the number, it may be a good idea to let it go to your voice mail. I have had a report at the office that local numbers are somehow being used to make scam calls. An example is 403-647-XXXX. Do not answer calls from numbers you do not recognize. If it is determined to be a scam call, block the number.

FLOWER POTS

The Village was lucky enough to receive 10 whiskey barrels as a donation. Public works have cut them in half in preparation to plant flowers. The Ag Society has generously donated money for the flowers. They will be placed on village owned property for everyone to enjoy.

From the Mayor,

Hello and Happy May! Now we get to see all those May flowers the April showers brought.

I want to take a few minutes to try and explain how we arrived at the new bylaw on unsightly and unsafe properties that was passed at the April Council Meeting, and what the desired outcomes should be. There seemed to be some misinformation being circulated.

You will remember that back in April of 2019 we circulated a Municipal Development Community Survey to the residents of the Village. The results of that survey indicated that resident's main concerns were; Village Appearance (36%) (* Unsightly premises * Boarded up buildings * Houses and yards that are not cared for) ; a Lack of Services (20%); and Bylaw Enforcement (20%) .

The results of that survey were then used to help the Planning Commission draft the Municipal Development Plan which was presented to the public at a special meeting in March of 2020 along with the Warner County & Coutts Intermunicipal Development Plan Bylaw

When council received the results of the survey, we began researching bylaws for unsightly premises in other municipalities and the sections of the Municipal Government Act that govern the actions Municipal Councils are responsible for, the job of determining the best wording for a new unsightly and unsafe properties bylaw was started. We also contacted Ridge Regional Public Safety Services to begin discussions on using a CPO for select bylaw enforcement. This was also a result of the Municipal Accountability Program review that was undertaken by the Province. Municipalities are required to have Bylaw Enforcement. In February of 2020 we passed a Bylaw authorizing the use of the CPO.

Over the intervening months we considered a few drafts of the bylaw and then in March of this year we had first reading of the by-law 578 and the CAO sent out copies to every post office box complete with a cover letter inviting comments be submitted until April 5th. As a side note, this type of Bylaw does not require a Public Meeting, but council wanted to be transparent. The majority of comments we received were favourable. There were several emails of support and four actual letters with concerns as well as a couple of short lists of signatures, gathered at the restaurant, of people in opposition. I personally answered each of the letters with some more information. The bylaw was passed at April's council meeting and there will be a one-year window for everyone to make sure they have cleaned up any non-complying properties. The CPO will be around doing inspections over the next few months. They will not be entering anyone's property; inspections will be done from the street.

Almost every block in the Village has an empty decaying structure on it, and in reality, this is a waste of space. At present the Village has no residential lots for sale. There is interest, as more people are looking to get away from the big urban areas and have discovered how easy it is to work from home. Milk River has seen a surge in real estate sales as well, and the Village is actively looking to take advantage of the market for serviced lots. We have a handful of properties that we will be dealing with over the next few months. We would like to encourage others to do the same.

The third item we want to address is #3 on the list, lack of services. In order to attract another business, possibly a gas bar/convenience store/coffeeshop? a boost in population would definitely be an asset. More people mean more demand. On the broadband front I can say stay tuned. There is a promising new development being tested in Milk River by the Cable Club that should see us gaining new high speed internet coverage over the next few months. We also are in line to be getting an electric vehicle charging station. Both of these developments are a result of our membership in SouthGrow. There is a new owner for the bar so that should be opening again later this year.

Finally, let me assure you the concerns over using a CPO for bylaw enforcement are baseless. The CPO will come to the Village to enforce the by-laws we direct him to enforce. He will not do traffic enforcement or motor vehicle inspections. As stated above we have had a contract with Ridge Regional Public Safety Services for over a year. We have received no complaints. Our police coverage continues to be provided by Milk River RCMP detachment. For special situations



requiring more manpower they may use CPOs and Sheriffs for assistance. (The new Corporal has indicated he likes doing foot patrols, so do not be surprised if you bump into him on a walk one day.)

I hope this explains the process a little more clearly. We did not just pull an idea and a bylaw out of a hat. We are operating at the direction of the citizenry, and I hope everyone will agree the results promise to make our little Village a more pleasant, appealing place to live.

This is another one of those opportunities for the community to work together. If your neighbours needs to borrow a rake, or a paint brush, maybe a ladder, give them a hand. Sometimes that all it takes to get a job done.

The premier promises we will have a good Summer, so we'll keep our fingers crossed, follow the guidelines, get our shots, and make sure it happens...oh, and wash your hands...

I've mentioned the survey, plans, and bylaws and they are all available on the Village website at http://couttsalberta.com/coutts_notices.html and the Municipal Government Act is online at <https://www.qp.alberta.ca/documents/Acts/m26.pdf>

Stay safe!

Jim

NEWS FROM YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY

As you are aware we are open for curbside service once again. You can return materials and pick up items in the hallway outside the library. If you have questions please give us a call. We are more than happy to help in any way we can, placing holds or pulling materials from the shelves, movies and anything else we can do to be of service to you. We continue to get new material in for your enjoyment!

Online resources that are available with your library card are:

Libby - the app for all things 3-Books and 3-audiobooks. There are thousands of titles for children, teens and adults that can be downloaded onto your device.

Creativebug offers online videos, arts and crafts workshops and techniques. Learn how to paint, knit, crochet, sew, screen print and so much more.

hoopla offers a wide range of movies and TV shows for streaming as well as a variety of books and audiobooks. There is no wait for items as everything is available for immediate download. You are, however, limited to five downloads per month.

PressReader allows you to have access to thousands of newspapers from all around the world.

Flipster offers Library customers the ability to download popular magazines with a number of options to choose from.

Happy Spring and planting!

Milk River Medical Clinic

- Dr. Henry Ovwasa and P.A. Mark Simons -

Over the next few months, we will have some new faces in our clinic.

We are excited to introduce:



Amanda is the new friendly face at the front desk. She has joined our team as receptionist while Megan is on maternity leave.



Bailey is a 2nd year Nurse Practitioner student from the University of Saskatchewan. We are happy to have her with us for her final practicum.



Alana will be joining us again for her final clinical rotation for her Physician Assistant Degree from the University of Toronto.



Leanne is currently in the Medical Office Administration program at Reeves College. She will be with us for her practicum towards the end of May.

Please help us welcome each of them the next time you are in!

- Clinic hours: Monday- Friday from 9am-5pm 403-647-3599 -

PRAIRIE ROSE LODGE BITS & PIECES - MAY- 2021

During these pandemic restrictive times there is little to do but talk about the weather. We are very fortunate as in southern Alberta the weather changes daily. This past week, husband and I have been reminiscing about the great snow storm of 1967. We had the same number of unsettled weather days, however in '67 we ended up with 5 feet of snow on the level - heavy wet snow that was very difficult to move as the ground beneath was thawed. Feed for stranded livestock and wildlife was delivered by helicopter, however many perished. With the loss of half the calf crop, it is not an event easily forgotten. On a positive note, this moisture was needed by everyone for crop seeding, grassland rejuvenation and fire suppression.

Needless to say, visiting to the lodge is still prohibited with exception of the 2 designated per resident with notification of the Manager. Birthday wishes go to Lloyd Vornbrock who celebrates his day on May 31st. Hopefully he will have a cupcake with a candle to acknowledge the day. We look forward to the time we can once again bring entertainment and food in for celebrations.

To keep people engaged, every Monday morning there are exercises and manicures are done every Thursday (I'm not sure if this includes men). There are daily readings; then the usual games of Yahtzee, Crib, Horse Racing, Badminton & Bowling (Wii). Movies and popcorn, bread baking with afternoon tea & toast is enjoyed by the residents. A country drive is always a hit. It feels like a "break out of jail event" even though residents are not allowed off the bus. May 5th is Cinco de Mayo and will be celebrated with Mexican food and drink. On May 6th, the Aaron Goodvin Concert to celebrate Mother's Day and there will be two more virtual concerts (Bobby Wills and Washboard Union). There may be a trip to a green house and garden and flowers will be planted.

Apologies go out to the surrounding communities but due to restrictions it was impossible to open up the Personal Touch Fashions visit to the public. Residents thoroughly enjoyed the event and I understand there are many new outfits in closets. When we are free to enter the lodge it would be great to have a Resident Fashion Parade.

Fear does not stop death, it stops life. Worrying does not take away tomorrow's problems, it takes away today's peace. We have only one life to live - it is our duty to God to live it to the fullest.

God Bless Emma Hulit

Riverside Community Golf Society

The Golf season is upon us now if only Mother Nature would cooperate a little.

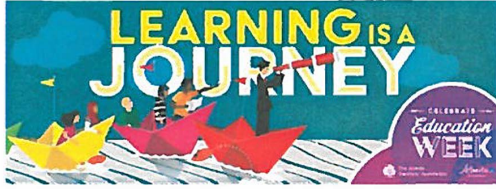
The Pro Shop at the golf course will open May 1st where Norm will be eager to collect membership, punch card, and green fees. Drop in or give Norm a call 403-647-2502 at the Pro Shop.

Welcome back to Dave Robertson as part of the Golf Course maintenance team and we would like to introduce the 3 new members of the team: Robert Collins, Dean & Joni Johnson.

Hope everyone has a wonderful golf season.

Milk River Elementary School – May Newsletter

April has come and gone in a hurry and the month of May is looking like it will do the same!! We have quite a few students practicing on various Milk River Minor Baseball teams which creates lots of excitement on baseball days!



Education Week – (May 3 - 7) “Learning is a Journey”. Education Week is an excellent opportunity to advocate for public education and intends to profile the role that education plays in all our lives in shaping the province’s future. It is a great time to celebrate teachers’ proud legacy in public education and work toward an inspired future that includes the following:

- Optimal learning conditions for every child
- Creative and innovative learning programs
- Students who enjoy learning and who achieve their learning goals
- Parents and communities that are involved and supportive of learning
- School leaders who are also teachers
- A well-thought out curriculum delivered by well-prepared professionals
- Opportunities for teachers to continue developing their skills as professionals

The Hot Lunch dates for this month are **Wednesday, May 5, 12, 19 & 26.**

We will celebrate **School Spirit** by participating in a **“Hat Day”** on **Thursday, May 6** along with our virtual assembly at 2:45 hosted by the Grade 4 class.

The Grade 3 – Painted Lady Butterfly rearing kit will arrive the week of **May 10** and the students are very excited to take part in the miracle of metamorphosis. This unique, educational project teaches children about life cycles and the natural world. Watch them grow, then let them go!

The teachers are looking at some **virtual** field trips for May and June as many of the organizations we have dealt with have now created online versions for our participation.

On behalf of all the staff and students at Milk River Elementary School, we would like to wish all the moms out there a “Happy Mother’s Day” on Sunday, May 9.

May News from Erle Rivers High School



OFFICE NOTES:

We are supporting the Milk River School Enhancement Committee Society with their pierogi and sausage fundraiser. Forms are due to the office by May 10th with orders to be available by May 31st. The funds raised goes towards enhancing the modernization project that will be joining both MRES & ERHS into one school. The committee has until December 2021 to raise funds that will allow for increase in gym capacity or CTS spaces, etc. Please support this good cause.

As we enter into May, there are only 7 weeks of classes left. We have done well to be able to maintain in-school learning by adhering to our covid protocols. We thank the students for their diligence in following the restrictions we've had in place. We know that it has not always been easy, however, so far we've been able to avoid having to go back to online learning. Please remain diligent for the last few weeks of school so that we can continue to learn together.

Dates to Remember:

May 19-20: Experience Days

May 21-24: No School, Victoria Day Long weekend

SAVE THE DATE:

Friday, June 4th @ 6:00 PM we are having an ERHS Grad 2021 Parade! This year we have 12 graduates who would have been walking across the stage in the gym supported by the community, unfortunately due to restrictions of public gatherings. We have come up with a new plan for the community to help our grads celebrate their accomplishments.

Our grads will be holding a parade and driving the streets of Milk River to celebrate their grad day. We want to encourage every family to go onto their doorsteps and give a shout-out to the grads as they drive by. If you have signs that you want to create and put on your lawns to congratulate them, that would be wonderful! We ask that all families adhere to social distancing guidelines as the grads pass. More information will be posted to our social media page as we get closer to the date. Please follow us on Facebook or Instagram @erlerivers.

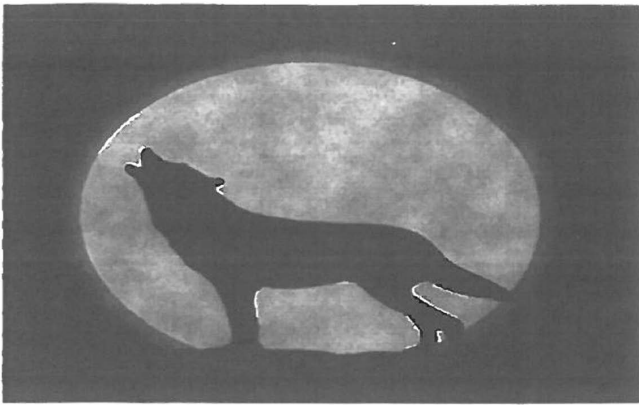
EXPERIENCE DAYS:

We have developed a way for our students to have a modified Experience Week this year in light of COVID restrictions. We will be creating new cohorts over the course of 2 days just before the long weekend. Students will be able to choose an experience that interests them to spend time on during those days. We will be providing lunch for our students for both days in order to maintain our new cohorts and run with an altered timetable. Staff members have partnered up or are working alone to provide a variety of experiences including: golf, sport clinic, skateboard building, candle making, outdoor education, and sewing.

STUDENTS UNION:

On April 22nd the Students Union was able to pull-off a surprise spirit day for ERHS students. Cohorts were encouraged to select a colour to represent their team and wear it on the 22nd. During periods 4 & 5, we stopped classes and each cohort traveled to various stations including a trust obstacle course, a breakout room, information on cyberbullying presented by Cst. David Munn of the RCMP, kindness cards, trust games, team building. The goal of the day was to create some positivity for our students and make everyone feel like they're a part of our great school. There was even a treat for everyone at the end! We really appreciate the leadership shown by our SU in organizing this day!





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Warner Adult Learning May Newsletter

Happy Mothers Day!

We have another busy month ahead!

Just look at what's up on our agenda:

COOKING WITH FRESH HERBS

May 5th in Milk River & May 26 Raymond 6:00 - 9:00pm

Learn what herbs work with what dishes and how to include them in your cooking

HOMEMADE CHOCOLATES



May 6th Warner 6:00 - 9:00 pm

FAIRY HERB GARDEN

Use herbs as the base for your own miniature paradise

May 12th in Raymond

HOW TO MANEUVER IN FACEBOOK

May 17th, 7-9pm Online with Zoom

Facebook has truly become a world of its own, but how to navigate it? Come to this class and learn the basics and more...

Call 403-421-0036 or email warner@taberadultlearning.com
for more information or to register.

MILK RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL CANADA

16TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

MAY 27, 2021



Agenda

9:55-10:00	Join meeting
10:00	Greeting and Welcome John Ross, Chairman
10:15	Approve Agenda Declaration of Quorum
10:20	Bylaw Amendment
10:25	MRWCC - Activity Report Tim Romanow, Executive Director
11:00	Financial Statements Presentation Insight Chartered Professional Accountants
11:20	Elections Election's Chairman
11:40	Meeting Adjournment

Notice of Bylaw Amendment

The following amendment to the MRWCC bylaws will be presented to the Membership for ratification:

Borrowing powers

For the purpose of carrying out its objects, the Milk River Watershed Council Canada may borrow or raise or secure the payment of money in any manner it thinks fit, and in particular, by the issue of debentures. This power shall be exercised only under the authority of the bylaws of the Milk River Watershed Council Canada and in no case shall debentures be issued without the sanction of a special resolution of the Milk River Watershed Council Canada.

Call for Nominations!

The following Board of Directors seats are open for nominations:

- Recreation
- Individual Member
- Towns/Villages/Hamlets
- Federal Government
- Academia
- Commercial/Industrial (Currently vacant)
- First Nations (Currently vacant)

Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, the AGM will be held virtually.

Please pre-register before **May 24, 2021** to get the meeting log in information.

For membership information, please visit our website at:

www.mrwcc.ca

Nominations will be taken from the floor on May 27, 2021 or received in advance by contacting

Tim at: 403-647-4342 or tim@mrwcc.ca

All nominees must be members of the MRWCC.

Members are entitled to vote at the AGM.

For more information please contact:

mary@mrwcc.ca or 403-647-3808

Our Water - Our Legacy

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>3</p> <p>MOVE IT, MOVE IT 10:00-10:30am Kim, Janet</p> <p>BUILDING BRAINS 11:00- 11:30am Jackie, Brenda</p>	<p>4</p> <p>#TEEN/TWEEN TALK TUESDAYS Tuesdays - 1:00pm Penny, Amanda</p> <p>GROWING MINDS 4:30- 6:00pm Ages 11-13 Amanda, Penny</p>	<p>5</p> <p>LEGO BUILDING CLUB 9:30-10:00am Jackie, Brenda</p> <p>CIRCLE TIME ONLINE 11:30- 12:00pm Jackie, Kim</p>	<p>6</p> <p>CAR SEAT SAFETY CLASS Jackie</p> <p>TRIPLE P DISCUSSION GROUP 1-3pm Janet, Stacey</p> <p>INDIGENOUS CRAFTS & CONVERSATION 1:00-3:00pm Jessica, Tashina</p>	<p>7</p> <p>FACEBOOK LIVE CIRCLE TIME 10:00am Myrna</p> <p>#FIVESTARFRIDAYS CAREGIVER CAFE 1:00pm Penny, Kim Fo</p>	<p>8</p>
<p>10</p> <p>MOVE IT, MOVE IT 10:00-10:30am Kim, Janet</p> <p>BUILDING BRAINS 11:00- 11:30am Jackie, Brenda</p> <p>TRIPLE P FEAR-LESS 7:00-9:00pm Kim Fe, Penny</p>	<p>11</p> <p>#TEEN/TWEEN TALK TUESDAYS Tuesdays - 1:00pm Penny, Amanda</p> <p>GROWING MINDS 4:30- 6:00pm Ages 11-13 Amanda, Penny</p>	<p>12</p> <p>LEGO BUILDING CLUB 9:30-10:00am Jackie, Brenda</p> <p>CIRCLE TIME ONLINE 11:30- 12:00pm Jackie, Kim</p> <p>7 HABITS OF EFFECTIVE FAMILIES 6:30-8:30pm Stacey, Myrna</p>	<p>13</p> <p>INDIGENOUS CRAFTS & CONVERSATION 1:00-3:00pm Jessica, Tashina</p> <p>TRIPLE P FEAR-LESS 7:00-9:00pm Kim Fe, Penny</p>	<p>14</p> <p>FACEBOOK LIVE CIRCLE TIME 10:00am Myrna</p> <p>#FIVESTARFRIDAYS CAREGIVER CAFE 1:00pm Penny, Kim Fo</p>	<p>15</p> <p>TRIPLE P FEAR-LESS 9:00- 11:00am Kim Fe, Penny</p>
<p>17</p> <p>MOVE IT, MOVE IT 10:00-10:30am Kim, Janet</p> <p>BUILDING BRAINS 11:00- 11:30am Jackie, Brenda</p>	<p>18</p> <p>#TEEN/TWEEN TALK TUESDAYS Tuesdays - 1:00pm Penny, Amanda</p> <p>GROWING MINDS 4:30- 6:00pm Ages 11-13 Amanda, Penny</p>	<p>19</p> <p>LEGO BUILDING CLUB 9:30-10:00am Jackie, Brenda</p> <p>CIRCLE TIME ONLINE 11:30- 12:00pm Jackie, Kim</p> <p>7 HABITS OF EFFECTIVE FAMILIES 6:30-8:30pm Stacey, Myrna</p>	<p>20</p> <p>TRIPLE P DISCUSSION GROUP 1-3pm Janet, Stacey</p> <p>INDIGENOUS CRAFTS & CONVERSATION 1:00-3:00pm Jessica, Tashina</p>	<p>21</p> <p>FACEBOOK LIVE CIRCLE TIME 10:00am Myrna</p> <p>#FIVESTARFRIDAYS CAREGIVER CAFE 1:00pm Penny, Kim Fo</p>	<p>22</p>
<p>24</p> <p>VICTORIA DAY</p>	<p>25</p> <p>#TEEN/TWEEN TALK TUESDAYS Tuesdays - 1:00pm Penny, Amanda</p> <p>GROWING MINDS 4:30- 6:00pm Ages 11-13 Amanda, Penny</p>	<p>26</p> <p>LEGO BUILDING CLUB 9:30-10:00am Jackie, Brenda</p> <p>CIRCLE TIME ONLINE 11:30- 12:00pm Jackie, Kim</p> <p>WELLNESS WEDNESDAY Cancer Screening Awareness 1:30-3:00pm Myrna</p> <p>7 HABITS OF EFFECTIVE FAMILIES 6:30-8:30pm Stacey, Myrna</p>	<p>27</p> <p>INDIGENOUS CRAFTS & CONVERSATION 1:00-3:00pm Jessica, Tashina</p>	<p>28</p> <p>FACEBOOK LIVE CIRCLE TIME 10:00am Myrna</p> <p>#FIVESTARFRIDAYS CAREGIVER CAFE 1:00pm Penny, Kim Fo</p>	<p>29</p>
<p>31</p> <p>BUILDING BRAINS 11:00- 11:30am Jackie, Brenda</p> <p>CAREGIVER CAFE 7:30-8:30pm Janet, Penny</p>					