

VILLAGE OF COUTTS NEWSLETTER



AUGUST 2020



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Water Conservation

As a reminder, we are on level II of Water Conservation measures. No watering with hoses, including soaker hoses allowed, no watering of lawns, washing cars, driveways, etc. Gardens, shrubs, & flowers can be watered only with a pail. Fines are \$100 for first offence, \$250 for second offence, and \$500 for third and subsequent offences. If we want to have household water for the upcoming months, these restrictions must be followed. Currently, the daily usage is not able to be replenished from the river. With the hot weather, evaporation will be a big factor as to how much of the reserves will be used. Please be conscious of the water you use, and conserve where ever possible.

Yards

Please maintain your yards. Cut back any trees/hedges that are encroaching onto or over sidewalks. The Village is receiving many complaints this year about neighboring yards. We do have the ability to issue fines, clean up yards, and add the charges to the land owners taxes. With COVID and travel being not recommended, it is a good opportunity to spruce up your yard. Yard waste, in brown bags, will be picked up on Monday mornings throughout the summer. Also, there may be a few teens that would appreciate a chance to make some extra cash. Reach out to one of them if you are unable to look after your yard.

Taxes

Taxes have been mailed/emailed. If you have not received yours, please call the Village Office and we can reprint for you. Taxes are due on August 31, however no penalties will be applied until October 1, due to COVID-19.

MASKS

Please remember to pick up your non-medical grade masks at the Village Office, we have 4 for each family member. Enter the Village Office through the Civic Centre Doors....if there is more than one person already in the Civic Centre, please respect social distancing.

RECYCLE TRAILER

We are sorry to report, that the recycle trailer is back to "out of service". We are working on a solution, and will keep the residents posted when/if it is back in operation.

NEWS FROM YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY

Summer is half over already, unbelievable! It has been so nice to be open once again and to see our amazing patrons and have a visit with you.

Since COVID we haven't been able to run the senior classes that we were having presented by Chinook Arch staff on digital services or intergenerational programs. The girls who were coming for these sessions have put together some kits on the last two sessions in each program and I have them at the library. Ask me for one the next time you pop in.

I can still use more empty milk and juice cartons and the long twelve pop cardboard boxes for space fillers at the back of the library shelves. If you have any please bring them over and we will be happy to take them off your hands.

Reminder - library hours for July and August are Tuesday and Thursday from 2:00-7:00 pm and our phone number is 403-344-3804.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY- CASINO

If casino gaming tables can reopen, the Friends of Coutts Library Society has a casino date for **September 19 and 20th, 2020**. We are looking for volunteers who maybe able to help. If anyone is interested they could contact me by phone, 403-344-3081 or email abbyrose@mrcable.ca and I will make sure they get a form to complete. Thank you, Lorelei...



Long Term Care Resident & Family Council

July 21, 2020

The purpose of the Resident & Family Council is to provide residents, families and volunteers the opportunity to identify challenges and make recommendations for positive change in the Long Term facility. The council also hosts fundraising events that financially support various programs and activities, which enhance the quality of life for all residents, such as decorations, table center pieces, balloons, posters napkins for all special occasions; like birthdays, Valentine's Day, Easter, Mother's Day, Father's Day, Oktoberfest, Christmas, New Years, and of course Entertainment for these special events.

Recently the council has purchased planters to cover the cement foundations that were left when the former large trees were taken out of the entrance lounge. These cement foundations were an eye sore and a safety hazard for the residents and visitors. ; Flowers and hanging baskets have been bought for the patios. Unfortunately due to covid19 our residents have not had any entertainers come in, hopefully this will soon change. New Music Books have been provided by the Recreation Dept. A large sun umbrella has been purchased for the smoking patio. **NEXT MEETING OF THE COUNCIL WILL BE September 17, 2020**

The fundraising raffle. It was decided to hold the draw in October 2020; more details will be given when the exact place and date are set The prizes for the raffle are 1st – Afgan Donated by Linda Selk, 2nd – Baby Quilt Donated by Milk River Quilt Guild, 3rd Lap Blanket Donated by Roxie Maggrah.

PLEASE HELP US SO WE CAN HELP OUR WONDERFUL SENIORS HAVE A LITTLE BIT OF FUN OVER THERE IN Long Term Care. You may get your tickets at the following locations;

Lavonne's Hair Nook

Town Hall

Smart Alice

B&C Insurance or call

Lana @ 403-647-2677 or Emma Hulit @ 403-344-2222.

If you do not want any of the prizes; not to worry just re-gift your winnings and buy a ticket or two anyway.

Thank you in advance

Lana Proctor, Treasurer, Resident & Family Council.



Milk River & District Ag Society

Here you have it, our new logo for the Ag Society... what do you think? It depicts everything around us, the Hills, the Hoodoos and the Milk River.

The Civic Centre is opened for your bookings, you may contact the Town Hall at 403-647-3773 to book your function, please remember to follow the Covid-19 guidelines when planning.

The **Harvest Festival** sub-committee is working on a launch for this fall. Keep your eyes opened on FB, Newsletter and around town.

Ever wonder what is on the second floor of the Civic Centre? *The Milk River & District Gymnastics Club* occupies the second level. The Gymnastics Club has been there for about 30 years. The Milk River & District Gymnastics Club was started by four mothers for their children to learn gymnastics, they started out renting the equipment, eventually were able to purchase the equipment and moved into the Civic Centre. It runs programs from Fall to February, typically meet twice a week. For more information you can send an email to milkrivergymnastics@hotmail.com.

Follow us on FB: <https://www.facebook.com/mrdagsociety>
Our email address is mrdagsociety@outlook.com

PRAIRIE ROSE LODGE BITS & PIECES-AUGUST 2020

I have been told by some folk the older a person gets - the more time drags. If any of you out there have some of that "drag" time, send it my way please. Once again I thought I had another week but realize the newsletter information is due today. As usual we have very little news from the Lodge as Covid 19 is still the headliner in our province and refusing to leave. However, for us to be virus free, it is up to all of us to follow direction-WEAR A MASK, SOCIAL DISTANCE, AND WASH YOUR HANDS. My heart goes out to the residents of the Lodge and Long-term Care. Visitors have been banned for so long and we know that socializing is so important - not only for the residents but also for families and friends.

As for the birthday parties - I hope they are not a thing of the past permanently. We have none in August or September however; we have 5 residents with birthdays in October. Hopefully, we will find a way to celebrate these special people. If anyone has ideas of events or entertainment the auxiliary could organize, please let us know. Our members miss the times we would have at the Lodge.

There is good news! Husband and I had a wonderful tour of the east area of the County. In our many years of farming, we have never seen such lovely crops. Hay is plentiful for the first time in about 5 years. You cattlemen - just keep "poopin" out those bales. I wandered out into a barley field and it was up to my shoulders. Now I know I am not very tall but that is one heck of a crop. The trick now is to get it into the bins; then find markets in this politically sensitive world.

Love deeply, be safe, be kind and have faith. God bless all. Emma Hult

SCREEN TEST

is coming to:

Milk River

August 10 & 11, 2020

North side of Prairie Rose Lodge



Call to book a mammogram appointment:

1-800-667-0604 (toll free)

Due to COVID-19, Screen Test is taking a number of precautions to ensure the safety of our clients and staff. Details will be shared when you call to book your appointment.



**SCREENING
FOR LIFE.CA**



Irrigating of the Golf Course

We the Board of Riverside Community Golf Course would like to explain how the irrigation works and to set the record straight.

We understand that the town has been receiving numerous complaints about us watering the course.

The golf course has an irrigation licence from the Government of Alberta just like every farmer who irrigates out of the Milk River. We take our water out of the river downstream from where the town does so, we have no impact on the town's water supply. Our pump is no longer in the same building as the town's, so we do not affect the town in that regard either. Also, our water does not come from the town reservoir.

Since we have our own licence, the town does not control our water supply, thus only the Government of Alberta (Alberta Environment) can shut us down. So, when the town imposes a water restriction this has no affect on us, and we do not have to stop watering until Alberta Environment says so.

Alberta Environment has put a stop to all irrigation out of the Milk River as of midnight on Friday July 24, 2020, so we are complying and have stopped taking all water out of the river. Some of you may seen us taking water out of the river Saturday morning but this was only because we had not been notified regarding the stop irrigation order. We quit drawing water as soon as we were informed. **However, you will see sprinklers going on our greens in the days to come but this water will be coming directly out of our ponds and not the river. When the ponds are empty then we will no longer water anything.**

Our only goal is to try to keep the greens alive, so we do not have to start at square one next year.

We are extremely disappointed that some of the residents of this community have such a hate for the golf course. We are a non-profit organization run by board members from all three communities, who are all strictly volunteer. We do not receive any remuneration, (not even free golf), for the thousands of hours that have been put in to try to better the course for the residents of our communities as well as the hundreds of guests it attracts to the course, campground, tourist attractions, and the businesses of Milk River, Warner, Coutts and surrounding areas. We support the community for all supplies that can be purchased locally, as well as we employ 6-8 people depending on time of the year.

We feel that if the course is allowed to die it will just be another nail in the coffin for the community and another reason for retirees and young people not to settle here. Just because some people do not like golf, does not mean they should complain about the course every chance they get. Some of us do not swim or curl but we sure as heck do not want those facilities to disappear. We need every type of recreation we can get our hands on to keep people here.

Please going forward do not complain to the Town Office, speak to a Board Member directly.

Please understand that we want all businesses, recreational facilities, tourist attractions etc. to thrive in our communities.

Thank You

The Board of Riverside Community Golf Society