

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF SPIRIT RIVER

NO. 133



THE NEXT REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Council meetings will be held first and third Wednesday of each month. The next regular Meeting will be held January 4, 2017 at 10:00 am at the MD Office in Spirit River.

PUBLIC WORKS

In the event of Emergency Call out of Municipal Equipment please call, in the following order:
David Johnson 780 864-9600; Kelly Hudson 780 864-8059



Controlled Burn Notifications

CENTRAL PEACE FIRE AND RESCUE

DID YOU KNOW THAT THOSE WHO DO NOT ADVISE US OF CONTROLLED BURNS MAY BE SUBJECT TO A \$500.00 FINE?

Before burning, within the MD of Spirit River, you must call the MD Office at 780-864-3500 during regular office hours, to notify us of your intent to burn, this includes burning on weekends and holidays. Our office is open Monday to Friday from 8:30 to 4:30, closed on Statutory Holidays. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Brian Kroes

Manager/Fire Chief CPFRC

THE RYCROFT LIBRARY BOARD is looking for a representative from the MD of Spirit River to participate in the activities of the Board. Anyone from the MD of Spirit River that may be interested in this opportunity should contact the MD office prior to January 4, 2017 to express your interest. Thank you in advance for your interest in this position.

Notice of Public Hearing

Pursuant to Section 606 of the Municipal Government Act, RSA 2000 as amended, this is to advise that the Council of the Municipal District of Spirit River No. 133 has given First Reading to Bylaw No. 03-AM-16 being an amendment to the Land Use Bylaw.

The purpose of this Land Use Bylaw amendment is to rezone a 25.26 ac portion of SE 28-78-6-W6M from Agriculture Restricted (AR) District to Highway Development (HD) District. The purpose of the amendment is to facilitate the subdivision of a third parcel out of the subject quarter for country residential use.

Copies of the draft Land Use Bylaw amendment are available for public inspection at the Municipal District Office in Spirit River during normal business hours as well as on the County's website at www.mdspiritriv.ab.ca.

A Public Hearing for this bylaw will be held in Council Chambers on January 4, 2017 at 11:00 am. Any person wishing to appear before Council may attend the hearing and their submissions will be heard. Written submissions may be submitted to the MD's office prior to the hearing.

Dated this 2nd day of November, 2016.

2017 PEACE AGRONOMY UPDATE

Wednesday, January 18, 2017
Dunvegan Motor Inn, Fairview
9:00 am Registration & Coffee
COST: \$30/person includes lunch

DEVELOPMENT OF OAT VARIETIES

Jennifer Mitchell-Fetch, Ag Canada, Brandon, Manitoba

OAT MARKETING OPPORTUNITIES

Bill Chapman, Crop Business Development Specialist, Alberta Ag, Barrhead

RHIZOBIA & THE AGRONOMY OF NODULATION

Jon Treloar, Technical Agronomist, Monsanto Bio-Ag

MODERNIZATION OF CANADIAN WHEAT CLASSES

Trent Whiting, Marketing Representative, SeCan

GRAIN, PULSE & OILSEED MARKET UPDATE

Neil Blue, Provincial Market Analyst, Alberta Ag, Vermilion

For more info contact North Peace Applied Research Association @ 780-836-3354 or email nora@npara.ca



FCSS HAPPENINGS

Snow Angels

If you are unable to clear snow to get out of the driveway please contact the FCSS office. Program only available in Rycroft and Spirit River urban lots. Interested in volunteering? Please give us a call at 780-864-3500 ext. 1. *Volunteers are desperately needed for the Rycroft & Spirit River area due to increase of residents in need.*

Transportation

Next monthly trip to Grande Prairie is on January 12, 2017. Call FCSS to register! Cost is only \$20.00 for a senior.

Kara Wendland, FCSS Coordinator
780-864-3500 press 1
fcss@mdspiritriv.ab.ca
www.centralpeacefcss.ca

The Municipal District of Spirit River was happy to have partnered with the following groups in 2016

- Cemetery Grants
- Central Peace Signal subscriptions for all ratepayers
- Compassion House
- Education Bursaries- Jordan Leibel, Kaylee Shmyruk, Kelsey Oatway, Dylan Knezevich, Ryan Beaupre.
- Farm Safety Centre
- FCSS
- Friends of Rycroft Community Hall
- Friends of South Peace Regional Archives
- Grande Prairie and Area Victim's Assistance
- Grande Spirit Foundation
- Mighty Peace Tourism
- Peace Country Beef and Forage
- Peace Regional Economic Development Association (PREDA)
- Peace Air Shed Zone
- Peace Valley Conservation, Recreation and Tourism
- Richardson Pioneer Central Peace Aquatic Centre
- Rycroft Baseball Association
- Rycroft Arena Board- Winter Frolic
- Rycroft Ag Society
- Royal Canadian legion / Spirit River Branch # 72
- Royal Canadian legion / Rycroft Branch # 224
- Rycroft Library
- Spirit River Ag Society- Arena Donation
- Spirit River Curling Club
- STARS Foundation
- Ste Marie fundraiser
- Town of Spirit River Airport
- Town Of Spirit River Ball Diamond
- Wanham Plowing Match

2016 Year End In Review

With the beginning of the New Year 2017, let me offer my best wishes to all of the residents and ratepayers of the Municipal District of Spirit River and to all of our neighbours in the Central Peace and beyond. Now that 2016 has concluded I would like to share some of my thoughts on our successes and challenges.

Looking back on 2016 we successfully celebrated our 100 year Centennial Celebration jointly with the Town of Spirit River and with help from the Village of Rycroft. It was a very enjoyable August weekend with many opportunities to meet friends and neighbours to reminisce on the days of the past. As I look back to the early years I remember the hard work and dedication of the Councils and staff that brought us through the tough years as homesteaders and pioneers. The monument that sits outside the MD office reflects our heritage with the arrival of agriculture and the railway on one side and a view of the modern MD on the other. In this photo you can see much of what makes the MD successful today; agriculture, oil and gas, and development including the three grain elevators. As well; a list of all the hard working men and women that served on 100 years of Council to provide the necessary services that we use today.

The MD has come a long way in 100 years. As I look at the recent accomplishments and successes I think of the people of the MD and how they are all contributing in their own way to the success of our communities.

The FCSS program just completed a very successful Christmas Hamper program with many generous donations from the local communities and businesses. They were able to help many families that are struggling across the Central Peace. I reflect on how the MD started the FCSS program back in 2005 and combined with the Town and Village to form the Central Peace FCSS in 2006 which is now broadening again with services to Birch Hills County and partnering with Saddle Hills County on specific programs.

The MD has continued to search out ways of being cost efficient and provide the necessary services for our residents and ratepayers. We have been lucky enough to have attracted a number of major businesses over the years to help cover costs and to provide employment opportunities. Beginning with the first of three major grain elevators for the Peace Country we have not looked back. We are continuing to search for economic development opportunities for our area which involves courting businesses for multiple years in advance. We are thankful to those businesses that have chosen to settle in the MD and the Central Peace and welcome them to be listed on our Website directory.

The MD has partnered to share the expense and increase the services where we can. We are very proud to be a member of the G5', consisting of a group of the five Central Peace Municipalities including the County of Birch Hills, County of Saddle Hills, Town of Spirit River and the Village of Rycroft. We are partnering with the G5 in the construction of the new Central Peace Health Centre to open in August 2017. There are many other exciting projects that this group is working on for the future and we will share the news and plans as they develop. Some possible projects include the investigation of an assisted living facility and access to the Peace River for water. We successfully obtained a grant of \$345,000.00 from Alberta Municipal Affairs to partner with the Town of Spirit River and the Village of Rycroft to form the Central Peace Fire and Rescue Commission and have joined forces to create one fire department for the area. We are very appreciative of the service of all of the past MD firemen and are encouraged to see the enthusiasm of the current members of the fire commission.

We are also very appreciative of all of the volunteers that work to support our local community groups and facilities. Your facilities and services are required to sustain our communities into the future. We have also helped many residents of the MD to attend post-secondary education through our bursary program. The MD is a proud contributor to your successes.

Although we are preparing for potentially difficult fiscal times with increased cost and diminishing revenues the MD Council is strong in our resolve to manage our current service levels within our current level of taxation which has not increased since 2007. We want to continue to provide a competitive and stable tax rate for our ratepayers as you also have fiscal challenges to meet moving forward.

On behalf of the Municipal District of Spirit River Council and staff I wish each and every one a Happy New Year.

Reeve Stan Bzowy

Tervita Landfill is open to MD ratepayers only

MD residents may be asked to verify their name and land locations upon entering the land fill site.

Landfill Take in days:
Wednesday, Thursday & Friday 9am-5pm
Saturday 10am-4pm
Closed: Monday, Tuesday & Sunday

If you have any questions, please contact the landfill at 780-765-3745.