

Municipal District of Spirit River No. 133

Phone: (780) 864-3500 | Fax: (780) 864-4303
PO Box 389 Spirit River, AB T0H 3G0
www.mdspiritriver.ab.ca
Facebook: Municipal District of Spirit River



THE NEXT REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

The next Council Meeting will be held on May 5, 2021 at 10am in the Brownlee Building located behind the MD Office in Spirit River.

PUBLIC WORKS

In the event of Emergency Call out of Municipal Equipment, please call: David Johnson – (780) 864-9600.

REMINDER: CONTROLLED BURNS NOTIFICATIONS

Please notify us before you burn. Those who do not advise of controlled burns are subject to a \$500.00 fine. These rules apply year-round! When calling for a burn notification, please call the MD Office at (780) 864-3500 Monday through Friday before 4:15pm.

FCSS NEWS



■ **Senior's Week Gifts:** Sign up a senior to receive a small gift bag in honor of Senior's Week June 7-13, by calling or emailing our office. *Community Sponsorship Needed* – if you would like to sponsor a gift, please call our office. **Ensure the seniors you know will get a gift!** Call or email us!
■ **Parents/families:** Don't have Internet/computer availability? Contact Petrina for help accessing parent support programs at 780-500-7166.
■ **Babysitters course:** Coming May 8, registration is open.

Limited spaces. For ages 11+. Contact our office to register. \$50/student. Space is limited.

- **Volunteer Income Tax Program:** This program provides **free tax filing service** for low income individuals and seniors. You are eligible if your income is **less than** \$35,000/yr single or \$45,000/couple. By appointment only with Julie at FCSS.
- **Your FoodBanks:** For non-perishable items, please contact Janet at 780-876-2075. For access to fresh foods, please contact your local minister or pastor, or call our office for a contact number. These foodbanks service the entire Central Peace. There are also frozen meals available from the community kitchen at our office, and at the Food Bank.
- **United Way Emergency Fund:** Applications are available ONLINE. This is a one-time use fund that can help support you in paying your utilities, rent, or supplies for a job. <https://forms.countygp.ab.ca/Public/FCSS/United-Way-Emergency-Funds-Application>.

PROGRAMS AVAILABLE

- **Meals on Wheels:** Seniors in Spirit River and Rycroft can sign up to have hot meals delivered to their door up to 3x a week.

For further details and inquiries info, please contact Julie at the FCSS office: Phone: 780-864-3500 ext. 206, or E-mail: fcss@mdspiritriver.ab.ca

AFSC-SPIRIT RIVER

The Alberta Government has announced the closure of the Spirit River AFSC office effective May 1, 2021. The Municipal District of Spirit River appreciates the value of this office to our ratepayers and our region and has written the Government advising that we would be willing to accommodate the AFSC office in our building at no cost.

Housing the AFSC office in the MD will not cost the MD and would allow producers to continue with this service locally with no need to drive to Grande Prairie or Fairview. We ask that community members who support this contact Alberta Agriculture and AFSC at the contact information below to encourage this partnership to retain these services.

If you have any questions you can contact the MD directly.

Shannon Marchand
Office of the Deputy Minister
Agriculture and Forestry
Chair, AFSC
Phone: 780 427-2145
shannon.marchand@gov.ab.ca

Devin Dreeshen
Minister of Agriculture and Forestry
Phone: 780 427-2137
AF.minister@gov.ab.ca

AFSC Central Office
Phone: 03.782.8200
Toll Free: 1.877.899.2372
info@afsc.ca

ATTENTION PRODUCERS

Seed cleaning season is well underway. If you are a producer using the services of a mobile seed cleaning plant, please contact the Municipal District of Spirit River's Agricultural Fieldman at 780-864-9358. To prevent the movement of undesirable vegetation, mobile seed cleaning plants must be inspected and be licensed by a municipal inspector. If the mobile seed cleaning plant has already been inspected and licensed by an inspector from another municipality, please submit a copy of the license to the MD of Spirit River. If you have any concerns or questions, please call our Agricultural Fieldman, Jenifer White, at 780-864-9358 or email her at jwhite@mdspiritriver.ab.ca.

2021 NO SPRAY AGREEMENTS

The Municipal District of Spirit River No. 133 is preparing for our upcoming Roadside Herbicide Application Program for weed and brush control on municipal roads and rights-of way. This program is scheduled to start around May 24, 2021 in the Bridgeview area if weather allows. It is standard practice that sensitive areas such as yard sites, beehives, and dugouts are bypassed. Residents are responsible for control of weeds on either side of their hedges, shelterbelts, yard sites, and dugouts for 30 meters.

If you do not wish to have spraying carried out on the roadway or any municipal rights-of-way next to your property, please print off a Roadside Vegetation Control Agreement from the www.mdspiritriver.ab.ca and submit it to the MD prior to June 1, 2021. If you are unable to print off the form, please call the Municipal District at 780-864-3500 or the Agricultural Fieldman at 780-864-9358 to request a copy or pick one up at the municipal office. These forms, must be submitted annually.

If you have any concerns or questions, please call our Agricultural Fieldman, Jenifer White, at 780-864-9358 or email her at jwhite@mdspiritriver.ab.ca.

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. **Regular 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.

SECURITY CAMERA REBATE

The Municipal District of Spirit River has extended the deadline for our Security Camera Rebate Program. All applications must be received by December 31, 2021. For more information and/or an application please contact the MD133 office – 780-864-3500.

2021 DUST CONTROL PROGRAM

The MD of Spirit River will be applying Calcium Chloride as a dust suppressant at the end of May. Our dust control and cost sharing program will operate similar to previous years. All Dust Control orders are to be paid prior to application and all orders must be placed by April 30, 2021. Applications can be picked up at the MD office or found on our Website. If you have questions or concerns please contact the Public Works Supervisor, David Johnson @ 780 864-9600.

CULLING ELK HERDS AND DONATING MEAT TO FOOD BANKS

April 15, 2021

Honourable Devin Dreeshen
Minister of Agriculture and Forestry
229 Legislature Building
10800-97 Avenue NW
Edmonton, AB, T5K 2B6

Dear Hon. Minister Dreeshen:

RE: Culling Central Peace Elk herds and Donating the Meat to Alberta Food Banks.

Large elk herds have been an ongoing problem in the Municipal District of Spirit River. The growing number of elk in the region, negatively impact agricultural producers in the municipality, causing significant crop and feed damage. Not only do the elk feed on crops, but they also flatten and damage crops as they move through the fields. Elk defecate on livestock feed sources as they bed down in it or feed themselves and this excrement is unpalatable to livestock resulting in huge losses through feed waste. These losses present real and serious economic impacts to producers.

The Municipal District of Spirit River Agriculture Service Board supports the idea of an elk cull in the Central Peace area with the meat being professionally butchered at inspected facilities and donated to Alberta food banks. We believe that this option would assist to lower the elk pressure on our farmlands while also supporting residents during these challenging times. We also believe there is additional benefit to the Provincial and Federal Government as it would lower the costs associated with AFSC wildlife investigations and claims providing a win-win situation overall.

Sincerely,

Nick vanRootselaar
Chairman,
Municipal District of Spirit River no. 133 Agriculture Service Board
/JW
CC: Council, Municipal District of Spirit River no. 133
Todd Loewen, MLA, Central Peace-Notley
Jason Nixon, Minister of Environment and Parks
Central Peace Signal Newspaper