

November 24, 2016

## HIGHLIGHTS

### FROM THE LAC STE. ANNE COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING HELD NOVEMBER 24, 2016

#### **County and Town of Mayerthorpe Team Up on Economic Development**

Lac Ste. Anne County Council has approved a partnership with the Town of Mayerthorpe to access grant funding from the Community and Regional Economic Support (CARES) program. If successful, the County and the Town will partner to develop training series for local businesses and people considering starting a local business, as well as conduct studies into Workforce Capacity and Recruitment and Agricultural Sector.

The CARES program funds Alberta municipalities', communities' and regions' initiatives that enhance local economic conditions, leverage regional economic development resources, and build local and regional capacity for sustainable economic development delivery. As part of the Alberta Jobs Plan, the Alberta Government has allocated \$30 million over 2 years to promote long-term economic growth and prosperity in Alberta's communities and regions through this new program.

If you have any questions about Economic Development initiatives, please contact Economic Development Officer Cindy Suter at 1.866.880.5722.

#### **Council Makes Improvements to the Solid Waste Utility**

County Council passed second and third reading for Solid Waste Utility Amendment Bylaw #44-2016, which made several amendments to the utility.

The amendments approved in the Solid Waste Utility Amendment Bylaw #44-2016 include:

- The utility fees billed this fall, an amount of \$107.50, is valid for the twenty-four month period of January 2016 to December 2017, for each property required to participate in the Solid Waste Utility.
- Properties located in the Hamlet of Sangudo are exempted from mandatory participation in the Solid Waste Utility. As properties in the Hamlet pay for curb side solid waste under a second utility, participation in the Transfer Station utility is voluntary.
- Properties that contract a third party waste disposal service, are exempted from mandatory participation in the Solid Waste Utility. As these properties can verify that they have solid waste services from another provider their participation in the Transfer Station utility is now voluntary.
- Lac Ste. Anne County residential property owner(s) or occupant(s) excluded or exempted from the Solid Waste Utility may elect to voluntarily participate in the utility.

Exempted properties who do not wish to voluntarily participate in order to gain access to County Transfer Stations are urged to contact Lac Ste. Anne County Administration at 1.866.880.5722 to ensure that utility accounts are properly closed prior to December 31, 2016.

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## Council Supports “Crop in Field” Signs for Farmers



County Council has initiated a “Crop in Field Signs” program for local agricultural producers at risk of losing their livelihood due to weather conditions during the harvest. These are the same conditions that led Lac Ste. Anne County to become the second municipality in Rural Alberta to declare a State of Agriculture Disaster this fall. While current and more accurate harvest numbers will be available soon from Alberta Financial Services Corporation, there is still ample visual evidence throughout the municipality that a large amount of crop remains in the field.

The program presented by Lac Ste. Anne Agricultural Services will produce and distribute “Crop in Field” signs to agricultural producers with crops remaining in the field at no cost to the producer. The proposed signs provide a quick, effective visual indication to off-highway vehicle users that there is a crop remaining on the lands they intend to access and that it is the producers request that they do not enter. Although yields would be reduced, many crops — if undisturbed over the winter — can be salvaged and harvested in the spring.

To learn more about the “Crop in Field” Sign program, contact Agricultural Services Manager Glenn Kummer, or Assistant Agricultural Services Manager Aren Skogstad, at 1.866.880.5722.

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## **County Tax Penalty Structure is Changing in 2017**

County Council has passed a bylaw to reduce the number of tax penalties each year from seven to three. County Administration recommended the improvement to the County's tax penalty structure to achieve greater efficiencies, including the ability to send the tax statements to each account on which a penalty is applied.

The changes will be implemented following the mailing of the 2017 tax notice in May. This delay in implementation is to allow additional time to notify the public as some print material have been mailed that reference the January, February and March 2017 penalties. Effective 2017, tax penalties will be applied in July for 6%, October for 9% and one in January for 9%.

If you have any questions about the Tax Penalty Bylaw 40-2016, please feel free to contact Laurie Coulson, Property Tax Administrator at 1.866.880.5722.

## **County Council sets the 2016 Tax Recovery Auction Reserve Bids**

County Council has established the reserve bids for the upcoming tax recovery public auction. The Municipal Government Act Section requires that Council must establish for each parcel of land to be offered for sale at a public auction a reserve bid that is as close as reasonably possible to the market value of the parcel, and any conditions that apply to the sale.

The tax recovery public auction was postponed to Friday, December 16, 2016, at 1:30 p.m. at the County Administration Building, Sangudo, Alberta. More information about the property being auctioned and the auction process can be found at [www.LSAC.ca](http://www.LSAC.ca) or by contacting Property Tax Administrator Laurie Coulson at 1.866.880.5722.