

COUNTY OF THORHILD COMMUNICATOR



Box 10, Thorhild, Alberta, T0A 3J0
www.thorhildcounty.com

Administration Office: 780-398-3741
Agriculture & Community Services: 780-398-3978
County Manager: Dan Small: 780-398-2800

Public Works: 780-398-3977, Fax: 780-398-3563
Fax: 780-398-3748

Utilities Emergency Number: 780-398-3939

TOLL FREE NUMBER 1-877-398-3777

IT'S A COUNTY FACT!

The County of Thorhild Natural Gas Distribution System consists of 1308 km of pipeline. This length is the same as the distance between Edmonton, Alberta and Whitehorse, Yukon.

UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS

June 22, 2010 July 27, 2010

The meeting originally scheduled for July 13, 2010 has been cancelled.

Regular & Special Council meetings commence at 9:30 a.m. in the County Administration Building and are open to the public.

COUNCIL MEETING AGENDAS & MINUTES

You can obtain agenda packages and approved minutes on our website (www.thorhildcounty.com) or at the County Administration Building.

2009 AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

These statements will be available at the County Office or on-line effective June 25, 2010.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Opal Road Overlay

Paving on the section of Opal Road between Highway 18 and Twp. Rd. 590 will begin in early July. Travelers should expect some delays during this construction.

Dust Control

Weather permitting we will be starting to apply our dust control product in early June.

Spring Road Bans

Effective June 1, 2010 road bans were changed to the following:

OPAL ROAD - South of Highway 18 to TWP Rd. 582 - 100%
HOSPITAL STREET - Range Road 205 within the Hamlet of Radway - 75%

LONG LAKE ACCESS ROAD - From Secondary Highway 831 East into Long Lake Provincial Park and the Hamlet of Long Lake - 100%

NORTHBROOK & PINEBROOK SUBDIVISIONS - the whole subdivision - 75%

HAMLET OF EGREMONT - EXCLUDING TWP RD 584 - Hamlet of Egremont - 75%

HAMLET OF OPAL - EXCLUDING THE LANE WHERE THE RAIL ROAD TRACKS USED TO BE - Hamlet of Opal - 75%

THIS ORDER SHALL REMAIN IN EFFECT UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

If you see major damage on County roads, please call (780) 398-3977 with the location so that we may repair them as soon as possible. We appreciate your co-operation and assistance at

AGRICULTURE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

Mill Creek Fire

The Mill Creek Fire is deemed to be "Under Control" and very few hot spots are being located. Sustainable Resources has released the camp and most ground crews however continued monitoring of the site will continue to ensure the fire is extinguished.

Costs associated with the fire response and reclamation are expected to reach \$8,000,000. Application under the Municipal Wildfire Assistance Program has been submitted.

A reclamation plan has been developed and will commence shortly. Any questions or concerns can be directed to Brett Demary, Emergency Operations Supervisor.

Thank you to everyone who helped with the fire in any way.

Sodium Hydroxide Spill

This incident on April 11, 2010 caused a great deal of fear, frustration and expense to residents, the County and RBS Bulk Systems. After significant soil testing, acceptable PH levels now permit the necessary road repairs. This work will commence within the next month, pending weather conditions. Your cooperation is very much appreciated and should you have any questions or concerns please contact Cindy Olchow at (780) 398-3978.

Summer Programs

Our summer program schedule has been finalized! Please watch for an ad in the local paper listing all the details or drop by the Community Services office to pick up a brochure. Call (780) 398-3978 for further information.

Le Tour de L'Alberta

Please watch for Le Tour de L'Alberta (Bicycle Tour) coming through our community on Sunday July 25, 2010. We will again be hosting a rest stop as part of the 185 km bike ride. Come out and cheer them all on!

UTILITIES DEPARTMENT

Natural Gas Construction

If you are interested in a natural gas service to your property for 2010 please contact Jessica at 780-398-2811 as soon as possible. This will be to ensure that we can get everything organized (paperwork, plan a route, etc) to be able to complete the construction before the ground freezes.

DIAL BEFORE YOU DIG!

ALBERTA ONE CALL 1 - 800 - 242 - 3447

If you are planning **ANY** excavation work, please call Alberta One Call. Line locates are only valid for a two-week period; any work commencing after that time must have line locations re-confirmed again.

Potable Truckfill

this time.

Correction Line Road

Work has begun on Phase 2 of this project which will extend all the way to Highway 63. Please obey all signage. The scheduled completion date for this project is July 31, 2010.

Summer Graveling

Our summer graveling program will begin towards the end of June and continue into July. We ask that you be patient as this program takes place. **Be prepared to stop, slow down when you meet a gravel truck and allow extra room between your vehicle and the gravel truck so that you are easily visible to the trucker. The truckers will pull over and let you pass, if it is safe for them to do so**

County Roads affected by Mill Creek Fire

Our County roads in the fire area continue to take a beating as fire crews travel between the fire and their camp site and water trucks continue to haul water into the area.

We are working on maintaining these roads, grading and putting down gravel until the fire crews have finished and moved out. At that time we will be re-assessing the roads to determine if further action is required.

LAND USE AND PLANNING

Assessment Complaints

If you have a concern about your assessment, or any information shown on your assessment is incorrect please contact the County of Thorhild taxation department at 780-398-2822 or the County of Thorhild Assessor at 780-939-3310 prior to filing a complaint. Complaint deadline is July 13, 2010.

2010 COUNTY OF THORHILD TAXES ARE DUE ON OR BEFORE JUNE 30, 2010.

A 10% PENALTY WILL BE ADDED TO ALL OUTSTANDING TAX ACCOUNTS ON JULY 1, 2010.

2010 Assessment Complaint Changes

- Complainants have 60 days to file an assessment complaint from the date their combined assessment/tax notice is deemed received.
- **LARB (Local Assessment Review Board)** - will hear complaints for residential property with three (3) or fewer dwelling units and farmland.
- **CARB (Composite Assessment Review Board)** - will hear complaints for four (4) or more dwelling units and non-residential property.
- All complaints must be filed on the new complaint form and accompanied by the filing fee. Forms are available at the County of Thorhild Tax Dept. or online at www.municipalaffairs.gov.ab.ca

Private Sewage Disposal Permits

The Private Sewage Systems Standard of Practice 2009 implemented through Alberta Municipal Affairs, Safety Services, came into force October 5, 2009. Private sewage systems are now to be designed using and applying the provisions in this new Standard of Practice. Should you require a private sewage permit; the name of a certified private sewage installer; or information pertaining to the new regulations, please contact the County of Thorhild Planning Department at 780-398-3741.

All potable truckfills in the County (Abee, Thorhild, Egremont, & Radway) are now operated on a prepaid pin system. If you still have a key for Egremont or Radway please return it to the office to setup up a new account and you will then be no longer charged the monthly service charge. To set up an account please contact Jessica at (780) 398-2811. The same pin information will be then operational at all potable truckfills.

Truckfill Updates

Please be advised as of March 1, 2010, each customer that uses the County truckfill services will be required to carry their own attachment to hook onto the spout as per Alberta Environment Code. The attachment that will be needed is a 3 inch female cam lock fitting and any length size of hose that is desired. These fittings can be found at most hardware stores.

Utility Billing

Beginning July 1, 2010, Preauthorized Payments will be available to pay your utility bills automatically by your bank on the first business day of each month. This will also apply to our Budget Payment Plan customers. Please contact Monique Michetti at 780-398-2825 for further information or to request an application.

For any questions or concerns regarding your utility account (billing/service) please contact Jessica at (780) 398-2811 or email jessica@thorhildcounty.com.