

# 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**

**COMMUNITY ADULT LEARNING PROGRAMS**

## COUNCIL MEETINGS

**July 14**

**July 28**

**August 11**

Regular and Special Council meetings commence at 9:30 a.m. and are open to the public.

The County offices will be closed July 1<sup>st</sup> for the Canada Day holiday.

### COUNCIL MINUTES

You can obtain approved minutes on our website ([www.thorhildcounty.com](http://www.thorhildcounty.com)) or at the County Administration Building.

### COUNCIL MINUTES SUMMARIES

#### May 26, 2009 Council Meeting

- Council decided to support the 2009 Thorhild Sunflower Festival and authorized the Director of Agriculture and Community Services and her organizing Committee to proceed with the event format as presented with a budget of \$2200, one time only, with the intent that the community organize and run the festival in future years.
- Council authorized the removal of the 75% roads bans off Opal Road South of Highway 18 to Township Road 582 and Long Lake Access Road effective June 1, 2009.
- Tax Penalty Bylaw 1122-2009 received three readings.
- Council approved the scheduling of two Special Council Meetings on May 28, 2009 and June 1, 2009 for the purposes of hearing appeals of three invoices for firefighting, an in camera briefing from the County solicitor pertaining to Bylaw 1120-2009, and hearing a CN Rail presentation.

#### AAMDC (Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties) Scholarship Program

In recognition of the importance of an educated population to the future well-being of rural communities, the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties established the AAMDC Scholarship Program.

The AAMDC Scholarship Program is designed to encourage young rural Albertans to pursue post-secondary education and, with this education, make a meaningful contribution to their communities in the future. The Scholarship Program provides \$1,000 to five rural students each year, one for each of the five AAMDC geographic districts. The AAMDC is now accepting applications for its 2009 Scholarship Program. Students from rural Alberta are invited to submit their applications, postmarked no later than July 31, 2009.

For more information on the AAMDC Scholarship Program contact:

Penny Lyons at Thorhild Central School - 780-398-3610  
Corinne Arsenault at Thorhild County - 780-398-3978

### Fall and Winter Course Planning

Planning has begun for courses for the 2009 fall and winter season (October - January). If there is a particular course that you would like offered locally or if you are interested in teaching a course, please contact Carol Kassian at (780) 398-2806. The course flyer will be ready for September distribution.

### Restricted Canadian Firearm Safety Course - Evening Session Interest List

Please call to place your name in an Interest List for this special session. (Cost - \$60/person). An evening session will be scheduled when we have a minimum 5 (five) people registered. Call (780) 398-2806 or (780) 398-3978 to register.

### CENSUS

#### **Be Part of the Count!**

#### **Have you been counted yet?**

Census enumerators are finishing up their visits of every household in the County. They have reported that County residents have been cooperative and very supportive of the 2009 Municipal Census project. If an enumerator has not visited your residence by June 17<sup>th</sup>, or if they have left an orange call-back card on your door, please call the Census Coordinator at (780) 398-2812 so you can Be Part of the Count!

### LAND USE AND PLANNING

#### Proposed Development Notices

A permit granted for a permitted use where no variance or relaxation of a regulation as identified in County of Thorhild Land Use Bylaw 989-98, are advertised in the County Communicator or The Review.

A development permit is required whenever new development occurs on a property. Besides the legal description, you would be required to provide a site drawing showing where the development will be, with distances from all property lines, other buildings and sewer systems. Typically, a building permit would accompany the development permit. Building permits are required for any structure larger than 100 square feet, as well as decks. With the building permit you should provide 2 or 3 copies of the plans, site drawings and truss plans. For decks, the inspector requires cross-section views, stair plans, deck section, etc.

The County office issues the development permit and takes application and payment only, on the building permit. Construction should not take place

## **RURAL RESIDENTIAL SIGNS**

**D** We will be collecting names for rural residential signs on an ongoing basis. As previously mentioned, we need a minimum of 50 per order so we are able to receive the discount. This takes several months. The cost is \$29.32 (including GST). Call Cindy Hutchinson at 780-398-2822 if you require additional information or you want to put your name on the list.

## **UTILITIES DEPARTMENT**

### Construction Season

As construction season is starting and you are planning any excavation work, please call Alberta One Call at 1-800-242-3447. Also if you are interested in a new Utilities service that the County provides please contact Jessica at 780-398-2811.

### Gas Leaks

**Reminder:** If you discover and report a gas smell that leads to a confirmed underground gas leak, you will be rewarded a **\$100.00 credit** on your gas bill or towards a natural gas infill.

### Gas Meter Maintenance

Please be advised that meter maintenance is ongoing on aged gas meters. As such, Utilities Servicemen will be deployed to change the identified meters, which will result in the gas being turned off for a short period of time. Contact with the contracted consumer will be made prior to work commencing to ensure arrangements are in place to resume gas flow. Please note that not all gas customers are affected by this maintenance effort - for more information please contact Jessica at 780-398-2811.

### Natural Gas Line Marker Signs

The Utilities Department is in the process of re-installing natural gas line marker signs. It seems that a large number of signs are missing within the County's franchise area. This is a huge safety concern and has a significant cost implication, which needs to be rectified immediately. The signs are sometimes inadvertently knocked down during farming or while mowing/plowing activity is conducted. Should this occur, please contact the Jessica at 780-398-2811 for repair or replacement.

**Gas and water meter Reads are recorded for billing at the end of every month. If MCD Meter Reading has missed you, please call our office to arrange a time to obtain your meter reads @ 780-398-3741 or toll free @ 1-877-398-3777.**

## **AGRICULTURE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES**

### 2009 Le Tour de L'Alberta

On Sunday July 26, 2009 a bicycle tour called Le Tour de L'Alberta bicycle tour is coming to Thorhild. This tour starts off in Morinville and will run a total of 178 km. Please come out and cheer on all the bicyclists as they come through the rest stop station here in **Thorhild at the North end of the County Administration Building**. If you wish, please make up signs to post to encourage the cyclists as they come through our community. For more information about the tour you can check out their web site [www.tourdalberta.ca](http://www.tourdalberta.ca) or call Carolyn @ 780-398-3978. We look forward to seeing you all come out and join in this event.

### Fire Permits

**REMEMBER**, Fire Permits are required for all types of fires and are necessary to monitor, control and promote safe burning activities.

For fire permit issuance, please contact Brett Demary, Emergency Management Coordinator, at 780-398-2828.

until after The Inspections Group has issued the permit. All of the permit applications are available on the County website under departments/planning and development at [www.thorhildcounty.com](http://www.thorhildcounty.com); or please contact Susan Edmunds at (780) 398-2816.

### Combined Assessment and Tax Notices 2009

- County of Thorhild combined 2009 Assessment and Tax Notices are deemed to be received in accordance with Section 311, being Chapter M-26.1, R.S.A.2000 of the Municipal Government Act; as a result of this notice with taxes due on or before July 14, 2009
- Assessment complaints are to be in writing to the County of Thorhild Chief Administrative Officer on or before July 13, 2009 with a \$25.00 fee per complaint.

## **WASTE MANAGEMENT**

The paper bin located within the Hamlet of Thorhild has been **relocated** to Thorhild Gas & Car Wash (formerly Mayland Services).

Waste taken to the landfills must be sorted into the following areas: wood, white metals (stoves, fridges/freezers, etc.), metals (steel, aluminum, barb wire, etc.), paper bin, tires, concrete, ash pit, milk jug bags, miscellaneous pile - e-waste (TV's, computers) and the main pit (other waste that cannot be sorted into any other of the areas listed above).

**NOTE:** Any items that have freon in them (fridges, freezers, water coolers, etc) must have a certified contractor remove the freon and put their sticker on the appliance. If this cannot be done it is \$20.00 per unit (or piece thereof) when you take them to the landfill.

Our landfills do not accept: paint, oil cans, oil filters, chemicals, asbestos, batteries, propane tanks, radio active waste, bio medical waste, pesticides, liquid sewage & sewage sludge, dead animals, live ammunition or any other explosive material, hazardous waste, oilfield waste, automobiles or automobile parts, small engines of any kind.

**Oil collection site** is located at Thorhild Gas & Car Wash and the AG Services Department has a collection site for **empty agricultural chemical containers** located North of Highway 18 on RR 214 approximately  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile on the West side **OR** from Thorhild 1 mile East and 1 mile North.

**We hold an annual Joint Household Hazardous Waste/e-waste Roundup in early June.**

A more complete breakdown is found in our brochures available from our landfill attendants, at the Administration office or at the Public Works shop.

When hauling waste to the landfills, please ensure that your load is tied down or has a tarp over it. If items are lost along the way, our Public Works staff will pick it up; go through it to find any item that may identify who it belongs to. The time spent on this unnecessary cleanup takes away valuable time from other projects. If identifying material is found you will be contacted by Public Works to inform you regarding **COUNTY OF THORHILD NO. 7, BY-LAW 1040-2003 - A BY-LAW TO PREVENT LITTERING FROM THE OPERATIONS OF LANDFILL SITE, TRANSFER STATION OR FROM A VEHICLE TRANSPORTING TO THESE**

### Weed Control

Soon it will be that time of year again that each municipality is required by provincial statutes and by municipal bylaws to enforce the control of restricted and noxious weeds within their boundaries.

During the summer the County will be spraying roadsides, municipal lands, special weed spot spraying on an as-needed basis, and doing inspections on lands to ensure residents are controlling weeds on their property. Those that do not will first be issued a friendly letter. A high percentage of residents comply with these letters and enforcement is not required.

#### Registered "Do Not Spray" Posted areas

A reminder to Landowners that have registered for the "Do Not Spray" program that weed and or brush control work must be completed on or before August 1, after this date the County may commence with control of these areas.

Organic growers must provide a buffer zone on their property separate from and not including the municipal road right of way.

#### 2009 Spray Program

Approximately 750 miles of roadside (2200-2300 acres) south of Twp 604 will be covered, (weather and conditions pending).

Approximately 690 miles of roadside north of Twp 604 will be covered under the special weed program, (weather and conditions pending).

The County may not spray roadsides, which are:

- Within 100 meters of residential dwellings. (Residents are requested to look after and remove weeds in front of yards).
- Within 30 meters of a body of water, (except when in compliance with Environmental Code of Practice for pesticides)
- Next to crops sensitive to the chemical being sprayed.

For further information, please contact the Agricultural Services Department at: 398-3978. Thank you for your co-operation during the 2009-spraying season.

**SITES.** (Available at the Administration Office)

#### ***GRAVEL ROADS***

Please remember that the speed limit on gravel roads is **80 km/hour** unless otherwise posted (see page 28 of the Alberta Basic License Driver's Handbook.)

#### ***CUSTOM GRADING***

An easement is required for custom grading around grain bins, bales, etc. This easement is available for signing only at the Public Works shop. The charge for custom grading is \$100.00/hour. Minimum charge is \$50.00.

#### ***ROADSIDE DUMPING***

Reporting anyone you see dumping garbage along County roadsides to the Public Works

Department @ 780 398 3977.

Recording the vehicle license plate number, description of vehicle, time of day and location.

#### ***MILK JUG RECYCLING***

In response to the announcement from the Environmental Services Association of Alberta and the Beverage Container Management Board, that effective June 1, 2009 milk containers will join the deposit system, the County of Thorhild No. 7 will be **removing the milk collection bags** from the various locations in the County after June 30, 2009.

For more information on this topic, please visit: [www.bcmb.ab.ca](http://www.bcmb.ab.ca)

#### ***SUMMER GRAVELLING***

Our summer gravelling program will begin on Monday, June 22, 2009.