Serving the **Central Peace Region** | Issue No. 1 • **October 15, 2026**

Spirit of the Central Peace

The **Spirit** *of* **Our Soil:** *Covering* **News** *&* **Events** *across the* **G5**

Welcome to the New G5 Regional Newsletter:
A new chapter in regional communication begins with this first edition

Welcome! We're excited to introduce you to the new regional newsletter created to bring the communities of the Central Peace closer together.

For the past couple years, the MD of Spirit River's newsletter has shared local news, municipal updates, community stories, helpful information, and the people and organizations that make our region such a great place to live. Now, that newsletter is growing.

The five municipalities of the Central Peace are joining forces to create one regional publication — a place where residents can find information from across our communities, discover local events and initiatives, celebrate the people who live here, and stay connected to the things that matter close to home.

The Spirit of the Central Peace is intended to complement, not replace, the many ways our municipalities and community organizations already communicate with residents. Think of it as another bridge between our communities — one that helps us see what is happening beyond our own doorstep.

Inside each edition, you'll find municipal news and updates, community stories, local events, practical information, features, opportunities, and more. We'll also continue to include some of the familiar features readers have come to enjoy, while making room for new voices and stories from throughout the region.

Most importantly, this is **your** regional newsletter.

We want to hear about the people, projects, businesses, organizations, events, and everyday accomplishments that make the Central Peace unique. If you have are a non-profit organization and have an upcoming event to promote or information that would be valuable to your neighbours, we encourage you to reach out to your local municipality.

As we begin this new chapter together, we hope the *Spirit of the Central Peace* becomes something you look forward to receiving — a place to stay informed, connected, and engaged with the communities we call home.

Welcome to the first edition. We're glad you're here.

Spirit River's Newest Park Continues to Take Shape

Readers may recall that back in February, the Town of Spirit River shared an update about the new sign located at the 50th Street entrance to downtown. The sign sits at the southeast corner of a space that is gradually taking shape as a beautiful new community park.

These days, passersby will see a variety of messages displayed on the electronic community message board, providing residents and visitors with timely information about local events, programs, activities, and other community announcements. The sign represents the first phase of a larger, multi-phased initiative aimed at rejuvenating the area and freshening the look of our community.



At about the time this newsletter reaches readers, approximately 40 trees and shrubs will be taking root throughout the park, including a larger, more prominent spruce tree that will become a focal point of the space. The park will continue to evolve as additional funds are raised and design ideas are developed and finalized — so stay tuned for future project updates!

This project has been made possible through the fundraising efforts of the Spirit River Kinette Club, along with federal grant funding secured by the Town of Spirit River. The Spirit River Kinettes and the Town extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who has contributed — and continues to contribute — their time, effort and support toward making this new community park a success.

And remember, the electronic message board is there to help spread the word about what's happening in our community. **If your community group or association has an upcoming event to advertise, contact the Town Office to learn about having it displayed on the sign.**

PO Box 157, Wanham, AB T0H 3P0
P:780-694-3793 | F: 780-694-3788
4601—50th Street, Wanham
www.birchhillscounty.com
Office Hours: 8:15-12:00 & 12:30 - 4:00

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- October 27th, 2026 - Organizational
- November 10th, 2026 - Regular

AGRICULTURE APPEAL BOARD

Birch Hills County is required by legislation to appoint an agriculture appeal board. If you are an agriculture minded individual and would like to help out your community, please email Jenifer at agfieldman@birchhillscounty.com. This board only meets if an appeal is filed against the Weed Control Act and Agricultural Pests Act.

RECREATION GRANT BOARD

This board reviews grant applications from local non-profits and meets once annually in the early spring to allocate funds. For more information contact Bailey at development@birchhillscounty.com

AGRICULTURE SERVICE BOARD (ASB)

This board meets between 3 and 5 times a year to discuss our agricultural programing and provide recommendations to Council. Please email Jenifer at agfieldman@birchhillscounty.com

MEDICAL FIRST RESPONDER RECRUITMENT

Do you have the knowledge and skills to become a Medical First Responder? Are you able to work in a confidential manner for the benefit of the public? Medical First Responders are trained volunteers who assist with medical emergencies until EMS services arrives. Birch Hills County is accepting applications for our Medical First Responder Team.

Please contact Larry Davidson, CAO @ cao@birchhillscounty.com or 780-694-3793 for further information. To apply, please submit a current resume, and cover letter outlining your experience and certifications to the Birch Hills County Office located at 4601 – 50th St. Wanham – Attention Larry Davidson – CAO

BIRCH HILLS COUNTY RESIDENTS AND RCMP DISCUSS RURAL CRIME AT COUNTY INFORMATION SESSION

Council hosted a community information session in Eaglesham on Sept. 29th with members of the RCMP's provincial K Division and local detachment commanders. Residents and Council alike appreciated the opportunity to speak about local police matters; something Council regularly does during Rural Municipality Association convention. About thirty people attended the session, which focused on policing initiatives, crime reduction, and questions from the public. It should be noted that Birch Hills County is served by two RCMP detachments: McClennan which covers the east side of our County to Range Road 12, while Spirit River covers the west side.

Discussion included how RCMP members balance their workloads with active community patrols and how the special units such as the Rural Organized Crime Unit monitor and respond to prolific offenders responsible for a significant share of crime. The RCMP spoke of the importance of reporting criminal activity as this information is used to determine policing levels. Participants also discussed ways residents can improve property security and the use of social media to raise awareness. Residents were upset with our judicial system's catch and release of accused individuals. Those concerns were echoed by RCMP members, who work diligently to provide accurate, detailed information in support of convictions.



CONTACTS

FIRE CHIEF MARK WURZ – (780) 864-8664

EMERGENCY AFTER HOURS:
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS – (780) 864-0367
DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE JENIFER LIZOTTE – (780) 864-7567
UTILITY OPERATIONS (ON-CALL EMERGENCY NUMBER) – (780) 864-7480

LANDFILL & TRANSFER SITE HOURS

WANHAM: MONDAY & THURSDAY 2:00PM-8:00PM.

TANGENT: TUESDAY & FRIDAY 2:00PM-8:00PM.

EAGLESHAM HALL RENTAL:

CONTACT TAMARA AT COUNTY OFFICE – PAYABLES@BIRCHHILLSCOUNTY.COM

VILLAGE OF RYCROFT HIGHLIGHTS

Upcoming Council Meetings

Wednesday, October 7 & Tuesday, October 20

Everyone welcome. Meetings start at 6:30pm. Village Office Council Chambers, 4703-51 St.

Help Shape the Future of Child Care in Rycroft

Could a new daycare help your family — or families in our community?

The Village of Rycroft is exploring the possibility of developing a **daycare facility within the village**, and we want to hear from you!

The Village is currently considering several potential locations, including the possibility of **co-locating a daycare within Rycroft School**.

Whether you currently need child care, may need it in the future, or simply want to see Rycroft grow and thrive, **your feedback matters**. Your responses will help the Village better understand the community's needs and determine the level of demand for this important service.

Survey runs *until* October 19, 2026

Have your say and help shape what comes next for Rycroft!

Visit the **Village of Rycroft Facebook page or website** to access the survey link.



Planning Ditching Work in Saddle Hills County? *A Permit is Required*

Saddle Hills County reminds landowners that a permit is required before completing any ditching work within a County right-of-way or undeveloped surveyed road allowance.

This includes work intended to improve drainage, redirect water, or maintain existing ditches. Permits help ensure work does not damage County infrastructure, create drainage issues, or negatively impact neighbouring properties.

For permit information or assistance, contact Saddle Hills County Operations at (780)864-3760.

Saddle Hills County Campgrounds Closing for the Season

Another camping season is coming to an end, and Saddle Hills County's municipal campgrounds will soon close for the winter.

Seasonal closure dates are:

- **Spring Lake Campground:** October 4
- **Cotillion Park:** October 17
- **Hilltop Lake Campground:** October 31

Campers are encouraged to plan their final visits and ensure all belongings and camping equipment are removed before each campground closes.

Thank you to everyone who visited our campgrounds this season. We look forward to welcoming you back next year.



SPIRIT WORKS

Connecting local people with local opportunities

The Town of Spirit River is looking to fill the position of **Public Works Labourer** (Permanent Full-Time).

Standard Hours: **40**

Department: **Public Works**

Spirit River's Reporting to the Public Works Superintendent, the labourer is responsible for assisting in the Public Works department operations and other support duties as required. The labourer must ensure that all applicable municipal policies and bylaws, provincial legislation and federal legislation are adhered to. The role is intended for succession training. Candidates must have an interest in water and wastewater services and demonstrate a commitment to obtaining their water and wastewater operators certification. Just as importantly, we're looking for someone who is self-motivated, approachable and professional, works well independently and as part of a team, and takes the initiative to notice and address things that need attention.

A complete job posting can be found on the Town's website:

www.townofspiritriver.ca

This posting will remain open until a suitable candidate is found.

Please email, mail or drop-off your cover letter and resume to:

Keir Gervais, CAO
Email: cao@townofspiritriver.ca
Mail: Box 130 Spirit River, AB T0H 3G0
Drop off: Town Office at 4502 50th St.

Skating Season is Upon Us

The ice is made and the **MacLean Rec Center** is buzzing with activity! Minor Hockey & the Senior Rangers have been practicing since the end of September. The Town will be offering no charge Public Skating and Shinny (open to sponsorship if your company would like to get involved!) at the following times:

SHINNY – Sticks and Pucks allowed

Monday 3:30pm – 4:30pm *(could be later depending on the day)*
Tuesday 3:30pm – 5:45pm
Thursday 3:30pm – 4:30pm

PUBLIC SKATE – NO sticks or pucks allowed

Wednesday 3:30pm – 4:00pm
Sunday 5:45pm – 7:15pm

For your safety, helmets are strictly mandatory in this zone. Please note that the Town accepts no liability for any accidents, injuries, or loss of property that may occur while using this area.

Central Peace Attraction & Retention Committee (CPARC) is seeking a Member-at-Large

CPARC was formed from municipalities of the G5 with the purpose of building a sustainable system for health care professional attraction and retention with local health professionals that will ensure ongoing health care services to our communities. There are generally 4 meetings per year with some volunteering in between.

If you are interested in becoming a member-at-large, please submit a letter of interest to the Town of Spirit River office either in person or mailed to Box 130, Spirit River, AB T0H 3G0

Saddle Hills County Seeks ALUS Expressions of Interest

Saddle Hills County producers can turn marginal or environmentally sensitive farmland into projects that benefit both their operations and the environment through the ALUS program.

ALUS works with agricultural producers to establish projects that improve water quality, enhance wildlife and pollinator habitat, and increase resilience to flooding and drought. Projects are typically established on land that is difficult or inefficient to farm, such as wet or saline areas, land along watercourses, steep slopes, and other marginal areas.

Projects may include:

- Restoring or enhancing wetlands and riparian areas
- Establishing pollinator habitat
- Planting trees and reforestation
- Restoring native prairie
- Improving grazing management

The Saddle Hills County ALUS Program Coordinator works directly with producers to identify suitable areas and develop projects that fit their operations. Financial support may be available for establishing projects and maintaining the environmental benefits they provide.

Expressions of Interest are now being accepted from Saddle Hills County producers for projects planned for 2027.

Learn more or submit an Expression of Interest at saddlehills.ab.ca/ALUS, email ag@saddlehills.ab.ca or call (780)864-3760.

Help Tell the Stories that Built Saddle Hills County

Saddle Hills County is inviting residents to help preserve the stories, photographs and memories that tell the history of local communities.

As part of the 2027 Saddle Hills County Calendar, the Stories That Built Saddle Hills County project is collecting historic photographs and stories about pioneer families, schools, farms, local businesses, community halls, sports, celebrations, and the people who helped shape the County.

Whether it is an old photograph, a family story, a school memory or a piece of local history, every contribution helps preserve the County's history for future generations.

Selected submissions may be featured in the 2027 Saddle Hills County Calendar, on the County website, social media and in future County communications.

Have a story or photo to share? Send submissions to **communications@saddlehills.ab.ca**.

Get Ready for Winter: *Residential Driveway Snowplowing in Saddle Hills County*

With winter approaching, Saddle Hills County residents who would like their residential driveway snowplowed this season are reminded to complete a **Residential Driveway Snowplowing Agreement.**

Seniors and residents with disabilities are **eligible** to have their residential driveways plowed at **no cost**. All other participating residents are required to purchase Snowplow Flags, which are available at the Saddle Hills County Administration Building. **Current costs can be found in the County's Master Rates Bylaw**.

Residents who participated in the program last winter must complete a new agreement for the current snowplowing season. Agreements do not carry over from year to year.

Completing your agreement early helps ensure your property is registered for the program before the snow starts to accumulate and provides an opportunity for the equipment operator to view your property.

Saddle Hills County also asks you to move items away from the snow plowing area and if its not possible mark the edges of them with wooden stakes so the operators know where they are under the snow.

Once County Road snowplowing has been completed, crews will proceed with registered residential driveways as operational conditions and schedules allow.

To complete a Residential Driveway Snowplowing Agreement or learn more about the program, visit saddlehills.ab.ca/home-properties-utilities/roads/snowplowing.



Kochia: *Noxious Weed Designation*

Saddle Hills County Elevates Kochia to Noxious Weed Designation

Saddle Hills County has elevated Kochia *(Bassia scoparia)* to a **Noxious Weed** designation within the County, strengthening efforts to prevent its spread and protect agricultural land.

Kochia is a highly adaptable annual weed that can establish quickly in disturbed areas, field edges, roadsides, pastures and other open areas. Once established, it can spread rapidly and compete with crops and desirable vegetation for moisture, nutrients and growing space.

The Noxious Weed designation means landowners and occupants are required to control Kochia on their property and prevent it from spreading.



Why Kochia is a Concern

Kochia can produce large numbers of seeds and, when mature, the plant can break off at the stem and tumble across the landscape, dispersing seed over considerable distances.

Kochia is also an increasing concern for agricultural producers because some populations have developed resistance to commonly used herbicides, making early identification and effective management increasingly important.

What Landowners Can Do

Landowners are encouraged to regularly inspect their property, particularly disturbed areas, field margins, fence lines, approaches and areas where Kochia has previously been found.

Early control is important. Managing plants before they mature and produce seed can significantly reduce future infestations. Depending on the location and extent of an infestation, control may include mowing, hand removal, cultivation or appropriate herbicide treatments.

Residents who identify Kochia or need assistance determining the best approach for their property are encouraged to contact Saddle Hills County's Agricultural Services Department.

Working together to identify and control Kochia early will help limit its spread and protect agricultural productivity and the County's rural landscape.

Saddle Hills COUNTY

More Flexibility for Rural Landowners in Saddle Hills County

Rural landowners in Saddle Hills County now have more flexibility when planning how their property is subdivided and used for the future.

Council has passed Bylaw 480-2026, **increasing the maximum lot size** for eligible subdivisions from 8.0 hectares (20 acres) **to 32.4 hectares (80 acres)** under the County's Land Use Bylaw and Municipal Development Plan.

The change gives landowners more options when considering the future of their property. A larger parcel may make it easier to keep a farmstead and surrounding land together, accommodate agricultural operations, divide land among family members, or plan for succession and future ownership.

For rural properties, a 20-acre parcel may not always reflect how the land is used. Allowing parcels of up to 80 acres provides greater flexibility to create a parcel that better fits an existing yard site, agricultural infrastructure, and the needs of the property.

The change does not mean every subdivision will automatically qualify for an 80-acre parcel. Subdivision applications will continue to be reviewed based on County requirements, site conditions, access, land use and other applicable planning considerations.

For more information about subdivision, planning and development in Saddle Hills County, visit saddlehills.ab.ca or contact the County's Planning and Development Department.

Community Safety Survey Highlights Residents' Priorities

Earlier this year, the MD of Spirit River invited residents to share their thoughts on community safety and policing priorities. Responses came from residents living on farms, rural properties and acreages.

While many respondents said they generally feel safe in their communities, the survey highlighted several concerns residents would like to see addressed through increased police visibility, communication and community-based initiatives.

Rural Crime Remains a Concern

The most consistent concern was theft, including stolen vehicles, fuel, tools and equipment. Break-ins, trespassing and suspicious activity were also frequently identified.

Several rural residents described concerns about people entering properties, equipment or items going missing, and unfamiliar vehicles travelling or stopping on rural roads. Farmyard, equipment and fuel theft, along with trespassing, were among the most frequently identified rural-specific concerns.

More Police Visibility and Faster Response

A strong theme throughout the survey was a desire for increased RCMP presence in rural areas. Respondents mentioned patrols on gravel and back roads, highways and routes between communities, with some suggesting that even periodic patrols could provide reassurance and help deter criminal activity. Areas identified included Rycroft, Woking, rural roadways and high-traffic areas.

Traffic enforcement was another recurring priority, particularly concerns about speeding on highways and through communities, as well as traffic safety around school buses.

Response times were also significant. Several respondents said longer RCMP response times affect their sense of safety. Residents expressed a desire for better communication when suspicious activity or other safety concerns occur.

At the same time, several respondents expressed appreciation for local RCMP members and acknowledged the challenges officers face.

Working Together on Community Safety

Residents expressed support for community patrols, public education, increased traffic enforcement, youth programs and collaboration with local organizations. There was also interest in community safety or RCMP information sessions, with several respondents indicating they would attend.

Some residents suggested tools such as security cameras could help address rural crime by assisting with the identification of vehicles or individuals involved in incidents.

When asked how they prefer to receive information about local safety and RCMP initiatives, residents most commonly identified Facebook, the MD website and the Spirit of the Central Peace newsletter, along with public meetings and email. Several respondents also said they do not feel well informed about crime and safety issues in the area.

Overall, the survey provides useful insight into what residents are seeing and experiencing. Recurring priorities included greater police visibility, addressing rural theft and property crime, traffic enforcement, timely response, improved communication and collaboration.

The MD of Spirit River thanks everyone who participated. Resident feedback will help inform ongoing conversations around community safety and policing priorities in the region.

Alberta Sheriffs Police Service Discusses Future of Rural Policing with Council

Representatives of the Alberta Sheriffs Police Service (ASPS) attended the Municipal District of Spirit River No. 133's regular council meeting on September 9, 2026, to discuss the development of a provincial policing model, rural coverage and potential opportunities to support communities across Alberta.

Chief Sat Parhar, Superintendent Josh Graham and Executive Officer Brian Kostyniuk spoke with Council about the proposed direction of the service, its relationship with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) and challenges facing rural municipalities, including policing costs, staffing, agricultural crime and the distances between communities.

Supporting Rural Communities

Chief Parhar emphasized that the developing ASPS model is intended to support law enforcement across Alberta, with a particular focus on rural and Indigenous communities. He stressed that the Alberta Sheriffs would work alongside the RCMP rather than in opposition to it, while developing a policing approach that provides accessible officers, a visible presence and services that reflect local needs.

The delegation indicated that approximately eight to 10 communities have reached out and signed expressions of interest as discussions continue. Parhar also spoke about financial pressures facing smaller communities and the goal of exploring a more affordable approach while maintaining accessible law enforcement and incorporating priorities such as school support and social work.

The proposed model would see municipalities fall under the Provincial Police Service Agreement, with the initial transition costs absorbed by the provincial police service. The first step would be taking over policing responsibilities on provincial and secondary highways. The RCMP is aware of the proposed transition and would remain involved throughout the process.

Specific costs and the funding model have yet to be confirmed. The delegation indicated that the first year of the proposed service is expected to be less expensive than the current RCMP arrangement, with subsequent years expected to have lower costs, subject to licensing requirements.

Rural Crime and Community Presence

Visible, accessible policing was a recurring theme. Council discussed the value of having officers present in the communities they serve, while rural crime concerns included vandalism, theft and arson, as well as agricultural crimes such as livestock theft, fraud, stolen hay and equipment theft.

Parhar emphasized the importance of building relationships and treating residents with respect. Commercial vehicle enforcement was also identified as an important specialized area.

The delegation discussed recruitment and training opportunities, including plans to develop provincial training programs and attract experienced personnel. There was also interest in developing a locally based workforce and connecting with potential applicants through career fairs.

Technology may also play a role in the future of rural policing. Parhar discussed potential uses for drones, including providing an initial view of rural properties, supporting evidence gathering and improving officer safety. A DNA laboratory being developed in Edmonton was also mentioned as a potential way to expedite analysis.

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Working Together Across the G5

Council suggested a future meeting involving the G5 municipalities and the ASPS to discuss regional coverage needs and potential costs. The delegation expressed interest in continuing discussions and sharing information as the proposed policing model develops.

Housing, healthcare, childcare and an aging population were also identified as broader community challenges, including considerations around seniors' safety.

Continued communication between municipalities and the ASPS was recognized as an important next step. Chief Parhar expressed interest in sharing updates through the *Spirit of the Central Peace* newsletter as plans progress.

Council expressed appreciation for the opportunity to meet with the delegation and emphasized the importance of developing an affordable policing approach that reflects the needs of the communities being served.



From L to R: Chief Sat Parhar, Councillor Shelley Rozecki, Councillor Evelyn Bzowy, Deputy Reeve Dean Wark, Superintendent Josh Graham, and Executive Officer Brian Kostyniuk

VOYENTALERT!

REMINDER

REGISTERNOW!

Download on the App Store

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NEVER MISS AN UPDATE

GET THE APP

1. **DOWNLOAD** Visit the App Store or Google Play Store and search 'Saddle Hills County'
2. **REGISTER** Fill out your info and check your email to verify your account.
3. **LOG IN** Get the latest news, events, jobs & more, right at your fingertips!



GET IT ON Google Play

Download on the App Store

fcss Central Peace Family and Community Support Services

OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

4201 50th St., Spirit River, Alberta
Phone: (587) 771-3567 | Mobile: (780) 864-5698
fcss@townofspiritriver.ca | www.centralpeacefcss.ca

SERVING THE MD #133, SPIRIT RIVER, RYCROFT, & WESTERN BIRCH HILLS COUNTY

On occasion, FCSS staff may be out of the office. If you require in-person assistance, please call ahead to ensure that someone will be available to help!

SENSORY, STORIES, AND SONGS

A program brought to us by Grande Prairie Family Education Society for children 0-6 years of age that will be held at the **Rycroft Library** from **10:30am – 12pm on Wednesday's (October 7 – November 4**). Please register at FACILITATOR@GPFES.COM or feel free to drop in. Come and check out all the cool things you can do while interacting with your child. *A small snack will be provided.*

PROGRAM AND SERVICES FAIR

This is open to the public. Please join us to see what is happening in our communities. This event is to take place on **October 22, 2026** at the **Centennial Hall** in Spirit River from **7pm – 9 pm**. Venders wanting to reserve a table for your club, organization, or service, please **call the office by October 15**, 2026. **Income less than $35,000/yr single or $45,000/yr for couples. Contact the FCSS office to book an appointment.*

SERVICE CANADA

Will be returning on **November 4, 2026** from **10am – 3pm**, to answer any questions you may have on topics such as applying for a Social Insurance Number, Employment Insurance, Canada Pension Plan, etc. Location is at the **Central Peace Medical Clinic at 4410 50th Street, Spirit River**.

MEALS ON WHEELS

Meals on Wheels are hot meals delivered to your door. They are delivered on Monday, Wednesdays, and Fridays. This program is intended for individuals' who are unable to obtain or prepare their own meals. Call or email the FCSS office for more information.

HOME SUPPORT

Intended for: a senior over the age of 55 years, any person with a disability, new mothers (short-term basis only), any person recovering from a surgery or operation (short-term basis only), or any person dealing with death of an immediate family member (short-term basis only). Please contact our FCSS office or email us for more information.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Are you a person who shows up as promised, is organized, and can manage time responsibly to support a team? Do you work well in a team environment and respect diverse backgrounds for a common goal? Do you have a genuine desire to truly care for your fellow community members? Contact our FCSS office to become a volunteer today!!

We respectfully acknowledge that we are located on Treaty 8 land, the traditional home of many First Nations and Métis.

Council Happenings

Spring Lake Ski Hill Receives Funding for Completion of Chalet Roof

Council approved a grant in the amount of $12,524.86 toward the completion of the Spring Lake Ski Hill Chalet Roof Project, with funding provided from Council Contingency.
The Spring Lake Ski Hill is a valued recreational asset within the County, offering residents and ratepayers an accessible destination for skiing, outdoor recreation, and family activities.

Council Supports Registered Drainage Systems Project

Council approved providing a letter of support to Birch Hills County and the ad hoc Registered Drainage Systems Committee for an application to the Alberta Community Partnership grant program under the Intermunicipal Collaboration component. The grant would support efforts to address ongoing issues related to registered drainage ditches by funding a comprehensive review of regional drainage system files. The project aims to improve understanding of these systems and identify potential solutions to help municipalities manage drainage infrastructure effectively and collaboratively.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

For full job descriptions and to apply: **saddlehills.ab.ca/Careers**

Permanent Full Time

- **Payroll Administrator**

COUNTY CALENDAR OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2025

Oct. 13 | 9a.m.	Regular Council Meeting
Oct. 22 | 6 p.m.	Agricultural Service Board Meeting
Oct. 27 | 9 a.m.	Organizational Meeting
Oct. 27 | 11 a.m.	Regular Council Meeting
Nov. 10 | 9 a.m.	Regular Council Meeting
Nov. 10 | 9 a.m.	Grant Program Budget Council Meeting
Nov. 17 | 9 a.m.	Operating Budget Council Meeting
Nov. 23 | 9 a.m.	Capital Budget Council Meeting
Nov. 24 | 9 a.m.	Regular Council Meeting

AROUND THE COUNTY

Medical Alert Device Subsidy Program

Saddle Hills County is introducing a Medical Alert Device Subsidy Program to help senior residents stay safe and independent. The program provides eligible residents with a subsidy of up to $400 annually to help offset the cost of a medical alert device and associated subscription fees.
Learn more about the program at **saddlehills.ab.ca/News**

Project Aurora Construction Underway

Construction is underway in Saddle Hills County as part of Project Aurora, bringing high-speed internet to nearly 600 homes and businesses. Residents can expect to see drilling and plowing crews, equipment, and construction activity as work progresses. Construction updates will be posted at **saddlehills.ab.ca/News**

2027 Grants Now Open

Saddle Hills County is now accepting applications for 2027 Capital, Operating, Community Signs, Cemetery Maintenance and Cemetery Capital Grants. Any community group or organization wishing to apply,should complete the relevant application on the County's website at **saddlehills.ab.ca/Grants**
The deadline for applications is **October 15, 2026**.

Tree Seedling Orders for 2027

Do you want to plant trees on your property? The Tree Seedling Program for residents is in its fourth year, and orders are now open. Available species and more information on the program, including pricing, can be found on our website at **saddlehills.ab.ca/Tree-Seedlings**

Notice of Public Auction

Notice is hereby given that Saddle Hills County will offer for sale, by public auction, at the Saddle Hills County Complex, on Tuesday, October 20, 2026, at 10 a.m., lands at SW 04-79-13-06. For more information, visit **saddlehills.ab.ca**

Junction of Hwy. 49 and Hwy. 725, RR1, Spirit River, AB. T0H 3G0
P: (780) 864-3760 | **F:** (780) 864-3904
Monday - Friday 8:15 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
www.saddlehills.ab.ca saddlehillscounty saddlehillsab