

COUNTY OF THORHILD COMMUNICATOR



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Agriculture & Community Services: 780-398-3978
Utilities Emergency Number: 780-398-3939

TOLL FREE NUMBER 1-877-398-3777

IT'S A COUNTY FACT!

There are approximately 1640 gas meters and 540 water meters within the County of Thorhild. Staff is in the process of replacing conventional meters with automated meters that can be read from an airplane at an altitude of 2500 - 3000 ft. About one third of all meters have been changed over to this new technology so far, drastically reducing meter reading expenses.

UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS

Feb. 22 & Mar. 8, 2011 - Regular Council Meetings

*The regular meeting originally scheduled for Mar. 22, 2011 has been rescheduled for Mar. 29, 2011.

Regular 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.

COUNCILLOR REIMBURSEMENT VOUCHERS

Effective January 1, 2011, Council decided to take a proactive approach to disclose their timesheets. Previous requests were made through the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIP)*. Timesheets will be provided on a monthly basis for a one year period. Requests out of this scope must be made through the FOIP Act. These can be found at <http://www.thorhildcounty.com/councilbio.htm>.

COUNTY MAPS

The new 2010 County maps have arrived and are now available for sale at the Administration office. The cost of each map is \$17.50 which includes GST.

LONG LAKE SKI HILL

We will be open Feb. 17 - 21 for Teacher's Convention & the Family Day Weekend. Join us for a Pancake Breakfast on Mon. Feb. 21 from 9:30 - 11:00 am. Family Ski Lift Passes will also be specially priced that day. Please call 1-866-576-2161 or check online at www.skilonglake.com for regular and special operating hours and updates on ski conditions.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Hamlet Garbage Collection Schedule

Egremont - Tuesdays Newbrook & Radway - Wednesdays
Thorhild - Fridays (with every 2nd Friday being recycle day;
next recycle pickup is Feb. 25)

GARBAGE IN THE HAMLETS OF EGREMONT, NEWBROOK & RADWAY MUST BE OUT TO THE POINT OF COLLECTION BETWEEN 9:00 - 9:30 AM.

AGRICULTURE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

Community Adult Learning - Upcoming Programs

Course	Date	Fee
Rural Women's Conference	Feb. 25	\$30
Non-Restr. Firearm Safety	Feb. 27	\$100
Ballroom Dance	Mar. 1 - Apr. 26	\$200/ couple
Restricted Firearm Safety	Mar. 1	\$60
Yoga	Mar. 3	\$80
Ukrainian Classics-Cabbage Roll	Mar. 11	\$40
Bootcamp (once per week)	Mar. 16	\$110
Bootcamp (twice per week)	Mar. 16	\$200
Air Brakes	Mar. 19	\$155

Please call (780) 398-3978 to register for any programs listed.

2% Liquid Strychnine

County of Thorhild Agricultural Services Department will be ordering 2% Liquid Strychnine for the control of Richardson Ground Squirrels this year (2011).

You MUST PRE-ORDER BEFORE FEBRUARY 25, 2011.

Please call (780) 398-3978 for information and to place your pre-order.

Strychnine will be sold in 250 mg bottles for \$10.00 per bottle. (Same paper work and conditions as last year).

Fire Permits

REMEMBER, Fire Permits are required year round 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 Operations Supervisor, at (780) 398-2828.

Upcoming Parent Link Programs

Webcast Series—Evening Group

4:00-6:00 pm

Please pre-register for all of the webcast seminars at least one week in advance of the session in person at the Parent Link Center or FCSS office. Pre-registration is necessary to ensure we have enough participants to run the session and appropriate space. For more info please call Tammy at 780-398-2809. **A \$10.00 refundable commitment fee will be required at the time of registration.**

A Behaviour Tool Belt—Monday, February 28, 2011

When behaviour has already occurred, learn some "tools" for responding. Common behaviour strategies, and when and how to use them, are the focus of this workshop. *Intended for parents of preschool to early elementary aged children.*

GARBAGE & RECYCLABLES IN THE HAMLET OF THORHILD (on recycle days) MUST BE OUT TO THE POINT OF COLLECTION BY 7:30 AM.

Resident Plowing

When plowing out your own driveway or having a private contractor plow, the snow must be pushed to the right of your driveway so that the grader does not put it back into the driveway when plowing the road. SNOW is not to be pushed across the road into the opposite ditch as this leaves ridges in the road and if a vehicle was to hit these ridges and sustain damage to the vehicle, its driver, or its passengers, you, the landowner could be held liable for these damages.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Are you wondering if you require a permit for a particular development? A number of brochures produced through the partnership of the Alberta Safety Codes Council and Alberta Municipal Affairs and Housing are available at the Planning and Development counter. The Safety Tips deal with the following topics:

Do I Need a Building Permit? Finishing Your Basement; Building a Wood Deck; Building a Detached Residential Garage; Private Swimming Pools and Tubs; Installing a Fireplace; Solid-Fuel Burning Appliances; and Carbon Monoxide Safety.

Consumer Tip Sheet circulars providing information on such matters as Home Renovations, Licensing and Registering Your Business, and Information for Landlords and Tenants are also available at the counter and at the Service Alberta website www.servicealberta.ca.

County of Thorhild Development and Building Permit information packages consisting of permit applications, checklists, applicable fee schedule, working around natural gas pipelines brochure and safety tips will assist you when you intend to build or install a hot tub, swimming pool, fireplace or a solid fuel burning appliance.

Come and Play

Parent Link Centers provide moms, dads, caregivers and their children with support and education, fun learning opportunities and a warm welcoming space. We offer a variety of programming including but not limited to: play groups, parent education, family events, workshops, as well as developmental screenings. The County of Thorhild Parent Link Centre would like to expand into the Newbrook area. Programs will be planned to suit the needs of participants. If you are interested in attending programs or have any program suggestions please contact the Parent Link Centre at 780-398-2809 or email tammy@thorhildcounty.com.

Email Distribution list: If you would like to receive the Parent Link Calendars and Notices via email please Email tammy@thorhildcounty.com Subject: Calendars

UTILITIES DEPARTMENT

Water Meter Maintenance

We are underway in changing water meters in the Hamlet of Thorhild to upgrade our system to an Automated Meter Reading program. If a utility serviceman has not been to your home to change your water meter or to do some maintenance that is required for this program, please contact Jessica at (780) 398-2811 to arrange for an appointment.

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.

Natural Gas Construction

If you will be requesting a Natural Gas service installation to your property this year please contact Jessica at 780-398-2811. The sooner we get all the paperwork in order, plan a route, etc the better we can arrange construction to fit everyone's schedule.

Utility Billing

*The Preauthorized Payment remittance date for your utility bill has been changed to the **due date (being the last day of every month)**. The next preauthorized payment to be withdrawn will be **February 28, 2011**.*

Preauthorized payments are now available for all utilities accounts. Please contact Monique at (780) 398-2825 for further information or to request an application.

Utility payments may also be deposited into the drop box located outside at the south end of the Administration office. For any questions or concerns regarding your utility account (billing/service) please contact Jessica at (780) 398-2811 or email jessica@thorhildcounty.com.