

# COUNTY OF THORHILD COMMUNICATOR



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

Administration Office: 780-398-3741  
Fax: 780-398-3748

County Manager: Dan Small: 780-398-2800

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

Agriculture & Community Services: 780-398-3978

Utilities Emergency Number: 780-398-3939

**TOLL FREE NUMBER 1-877-398-3777**

## ***IT'S A COUNTY FACT!***

Only one-third of the Operating Budget for the County comes from taxes. The balance comes from other sources including user fees, fees for service, and provincial and federal government grants. Over 60% of our municipal tax revenue comes from linear sources. 21% of all tax collected is sent directly to senior's housing and schools.

## ***FIRE ADVISORY IN EFFECT***

**As of May 12, 2011 the County of Thorhild has issued a FIRE ADVISORY.**

Due to strong winds and dry conditions, The County will not be issuing any new Burn Permits until further notice. All County residents are encouraged to continue exercising fire safety practices including discarding smoking materials properly, using spark arresters on ATV's and motorcycles and only using barbecues and approved fire pits with a tight mesh screen.

The use of burn barrels is still permitted, however we encourage you to use extreme caution when using burn barrels or fire pits. Never leave them unattended and ensure they are completely extinguished before leaving them. Caution is urged while doing any outdoor activities that could result in ignition of surface fuels (grass/stubble, etc).

For more information please contact Brett Demary, Emergency Operations Supervisor, at (780) 398-3978.

## ***UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS***

**May 24 & June 14, 2011 - Regular Council Meetings**

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](http://www.thorhildcounty.com)) or at the County Administration Building.

## ***OFFICE CLOSURES***

Please be advised that County offices will be closed on Monday, May 23, 2011. Happy Victoria Day!

## ***2011 MILLRATES***

County Council passed the 2011 Millrate Bylaw on April 26. Municipal millrates remain unchanged from last year except for the Hamlet of Thorhild, where they decreased slightly. Changes in total taxes owing on individual properties will vary depending on changes in assessed property value. Also, there are increases in the school and senior's housing portions of the millrate that are not determined by the County.

Tax notices are will be mailed out mid-May with payment due on June 30, 2011 to avoid any penalties. The mill rate and tax penalty bylaws as well as impacts on different property classes

## ***AGRICULTURE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES***

### Community Kitchen

Interest has once again been shown in organizing a community kitchen. If you are interested in getting together to prepare meals that can be frozen, please contact the Parent Link Centre and have your name added to the interest list. A menu, date & time will be decided upon by the group. Costs will vary, based on menus chosen and supplies needed.

### Healthy Me Tea Party

Join us for a Healthy Me Tea Party on Wednesday, May 25th at the Newbrook Fire Hall from 2:00-3:30 p.m. We will be enjoying healthy snacks that we will prepare on site while enjoying one another's company. **Registration is required on or before May 18th.** Please note: We are borrowing this space from Emergency Services and it is not childproof, so **constant supervision** will be required.

For more information or to register for any of our programs contact Tammy at (780) 398-2809 or at [tammy@thorhildcounty.com](mailto:tammy@thorhildcounty.com).

### Community Adult Learning

If you have any ideas for courses you'd like to see offered or if you have any skills or knowledge you would like to share with others in the community, please contact Carolyn at (780) 398-3978 or [carolyn@thorhildcounty.com](mailto:carolyn@thorhildcounty.com). We look forward to hearing from you!

## ***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.

are available online.

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### ***THORHILD SWIMMING POOL OPENING!***

The pool will be opening on Tuesday, May 24 (tentatively). Please watch for schedules to be distributed through the schools. We will be accepting registrations for lessons from Tuesday, May 24 to Friday May, 27 in person or over the phone. Payments for lessons will be accepted in person during this week between the hours of 3:30 - 6:30 p.m. Please call (780) 398-3730 for more information.

### ***PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT***

#### **Household Hazardous Waste Roundup**

Wow, it's almost time for spring clean up! What am I going to do with all these old paint cans, expired farm chemicals and the rest of these items that have been collecting since last clean up?

Bring them to the Household Hazardous Waste Roundup on Saturday, June 18, 2011 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm at the Thorhild Emergency Response Centre located at 21416 TWP Rd 600A (west of the Public Works shop).

#### **2011 Dust Control**

Late applications for Dust Control Products will be accepted until 4:00 pm on Tuesday, May 31, 2011 at the Public Works Office (white building with blue trim). A late application fee of \$100.00 will be added to each application of 100 meters. (i.e. new oil - \$1,098.00 + \$100.00/100 meters, maintenance oil \$366.00 + \$100.00/100 meters, calcium \$280.00 + \$100.00/100 meters)

**NO APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER 4:00 PM ON TUESDAY, MAY 31, 2011.**

#### **Standstone Waste Services**

In the event that the Standstone driver is late, Standstone requests that you leave your bins out until later in the day. If they are unable to pick up on the scheduled day, Standstone will contact the Public Works office.

### ***PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT***

#### **Are you thinking of appealing your assessment?**

New changes:

- The appeal deadline is now 60 days - being July 8, 2011
- For residential property with three (3) or fewer dwelling units and farmland - the Local Assessment Review Board (LARB) will hear the complaint
- For four (4) or more dwelling units and non-residential property - the Composite Assessment Review Board (CARB) will hear the complaint
- New complaint forms are to be used - ask at the County Taxation Department
- New requirements for sharing of information prior to the Board Hearing
- Assessment decision appeals are to the Court of Queen's Bench of Alberta - no longer to the Municipal Government Board (MGB)

The appeal fee is \$25.00 per parcel. If you have any questions about your assessment, please contact the Taxation Department at (780) 398-2822 or the County of Thorhild Assessor at (780) 939-3310.