

Check Out a Few of the Neat Organizations in your Community!



Top left: Northern Lights Snowmobile Club, Top right: Barrhead Flying Club event - Fly-in Breakfast, Bottom left: Barrhead Legion member at the Library, and Bottom right: Little Rocks Curlers!



CELEBRATE AT THE ANNUAL AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD AWARDS NIGHT!

Since the inception of the Rural Beautification Winners, we have honored many outstanding residents for keeping their yards beautiful and keeping our community looking it's best! This years' families are listed below and will be honored at the ASB Annual Appreciation Supper on January 12th, 2017. If you run into them, make sure to extend your congratulations as well!

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| Division One:
Lac La Nonne General Store | Century Farm Family Award:
Gravel Family |
| Division Two:
Ed & Diane Harke | GROWTH Business Award of Excellence: |
| Division Three:
Harold & Barb Beck | Northplex Ltd. |
| Division 4:
John & Mary Kenyon | Retirement Presentation: |
| Division 5:
Jason & Colleen Croteau | Marilyn Flock, Former Agricultural Fieldman |
| Division 6:
Rick & Kathy Ball | 4-H Celebrating 100 Years! |
| Division 7:
John & Pat Gelderman | |

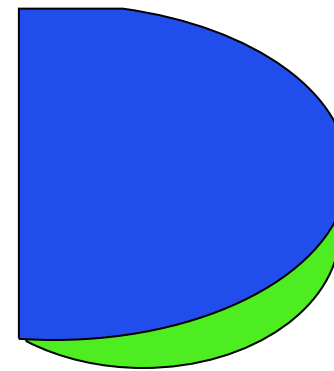



Kiel Development Project Continues Momentum!

2016 was a hard year in the economy, first with oil and gas, then with the difficult harvest our farmers endured. To mitigate the impact of these events and strengthen the future of the community, the County of Barrhead is continuing its work in Economic Development, and 2016 was a big year for activity. As you will recall, late in 2015 we completed our Visioning Exercise, which the community gathered to give input into values and deliverables they would like to see come from the 'Kiel Development Project'. Next steps were identified as conducting a feasibility study to determine the best industry fit based on these community values, and moving forward with the priority to mitigate risk to the County and its ratepayers. No one wants to be left with an empty development and high costs to pay!

The County of Barrhead engaged TEC Edmonton to complete this study, with excellent results. We now have a solid grasp of 4 industries that will complement the existing agriculture community while diversifying it to create new opportunities. As well, we have begun to identify the best business models moving forward so that we can engage industry and local entrepreneurs to create new, high value jobs and continued growth. The Town of Barrhead and the Chamber of Commerce have been excellent supporters and participants throughout, and the project will continue to move forward with the interests of the community as a whole.

Next steps will include a deep dive into the four areas of opportunity; we have applied for funding under the Community and Regional Economic Support (CARES) program to achieve this. We look forward to continuing this exciting work, engaging industry further and building solid business relationships with these partners. Anyone wishing to learn more can call Rick Neumann or Jenny Bruns at the County Office. *See Page 2 for additional economic development news!





What's Inside?

Reeve's Message Page 2

Public Works & Economic Development Page 2

CAO Messages Page 3

Ag Service Board & 'Around the Community' Page 4

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Check us out on
You Tube

Upcoming Events & Notices

- **ASB Annual Appreciation Supper** coming January 12th, 2017
- **Gardenview Community New Years Eve Dance.** Contact Terry McEachern at 780-674-5279
- **Misty Ridge Ski Hill:** Contact Tracey Mueller at 780-674-5580 or the hill at 780-674-4242. Coming up: Family Day Special Event! Something for the whole family, special events, concessions, snacks, hot cocoa, and lots of fun.
- **Northern Lights Snowmobile Club rides coming soon!** Contact Rob Bablitz at 780-305-1550, Darren Strawson at 780-674-1349, Dale Bentz at 780-674-7825 or Curtis Kager at 780-305-6478. Get your trail pass early!
- Check the Town of Barrhead events at www.barrhead.ca or
- **Check out our 2016 Events Listing** online at www.countybarrhead.ab.ca for details as they are updated, or contact your local community group representative!

Reeve's Message

Hello Everyone,

This is my first newsletter as Reeve since I was honored to be appointed in October. Thank you to Council for their confidence in me! To the residents of our County I intend to work hard on their behalf and maintain the values of fiscal responsibility and accountability of the Council.

A big thank you to Bill Lee for his many years of service as Reeve, I really appreciate his Leadership and his Commitment to the County of Barrhead.

As most of you know the Aquatic Centre is proceeding very well. The agreements on budgetary assistance for operating costs continue to be negotiated. Hopefully we can come to an agreement in the near future.

A couple of big projects were completed this year. Range Road 40 now gives residents a high quality driving surface along it, as well as numerous others who use it as a connector road. The other project was a reconstruction of a route primarily used by the aggregate producers at Holmes Crossing. A partnership between the Gravel Industry and the County has resulted in a safe road that all residents benefit from!

This year there were a record number of calls to Barrhead

Regional Fire Services. 2015 saw a total of 226 calls, and to November 30th, 2016 they are already at 349 calls. This is partly due to the hot dry spring. Council is currently looking at improvements to make in the service and delivery agreement with our partner, the Town of Barrhead.

A big change at the Administration Office is the retirement of our County Manager, Mark Oberg. Mark was a dedicated manager and I was impressed with his work ethic and his steady demeanor. Mostly I will miss his witty remarks! All the best in your future endeavors Mark!

With that change comes an exciting opportunity. I am pleased to welcome Ms. Debbie Oyarzun to the position of County Manager for the County of Barrhead, effective January 1, 2017. I look forward to working with her and I am sure we have some great days ahead of us.

In closing I just want to say that its an honor to serve the residents of the County and the Community at large. Please don't hesitate to reach out to my fellow Councillors or myself, as we truly value your input!

~ Sincerely, Reeve Drozd.



Snow Management! - Public Works Department Update

The Public Works Department is asking residents to be cautious when removing snow from drives and yards. **DO NOT drag it across the public roads**, but rather keep it on your own property. Dragging it across the road creates dangerous bumps that could result in vehicle damages, injury or death. Please have regard for your fellow drivers and remove yourself from potential liability!!

The Driveway Plowing program is also available - purchase a flag and sign a Hold Harmless agreement at the County Administration Office **prior** to them entering your land. Be prepared and get set up ahead of time, don't wait until you have to drive and can't get out! The flags don't expire from year to year, so if you have an extra one, just hold on to it for next time.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call Public Works at 780.674.2619. Thanks everyone for your cooperation!

More Economic Development News!

AIRPORT FULL! The Airport now has all 18 existing hangar lots leased out! Interest in our airport continues and the development for new plots is planned for 2017. The original conceptual plan was created in 1976. The Airport Committee and the County and Town of Barrhead will work together to continue to promote the airport and the demand to expand our airport services.

LAKE POINT RESORT: Planning applications have been made to change the ownership model of the existing Voodoo RV Resort at Lac La Nonne from a campground to Lake Point Resort Bareland Condominium Plan for RV's and Park Model units. Public Hearings are planned in the new year for these applications.

The County continues to grow and change to meet the needs of the residents, exciting times!

Message from Mark Oberg, Retiring County Manager

I have had the privilege of serving our community as County Manager for the past seven years. My experience at the County of Barrhead has been very good ; I work with a cohesive and progressive Council, our staff is experienced and capable, and our residents are practical and friendly.

One might ask why it is that I am retiring from such a good situation? The answer is that I am not retiring completely, I have the opportunity to continue serving our community ... but in a different position. My wife Sue and I have been contracted to provide management and financial services to the Barrhead Regional Water Commission. This work will be part of our effort to "retire slowly", while continuing to serve our community.

It is great when a plan works out, and this one did. As I've told many people, I'm not going anywhere and my wife and I plan to live and work here for many years to come! I wish Debbie, our new County Manager, every success in her new position.

Sincerely, Mark Oberg



Message from New County Manager - Debbie Oyarzun

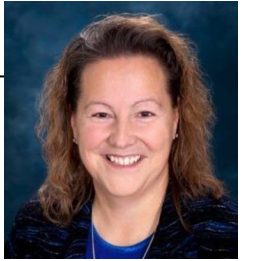
Although the year is wrapping up, a new journey is beginning for me and my family. Taking on the role of County Manager here at the County of Barrhead, I have come full circle, back to rural Alberta. Over the years I have compiled a very diverse background having worked for municipal, provincial and federal governments in addition to private industry, owning my own company and holding a Master's of Science degree. The path I have taken has provided me with administrative, political and leadership experience and a variety of technical skills including agriculture, environment, and emergency management to name just a few. All of which position me to once again be an advocate for rural Alberta.

Although I am familiar with the County of Barrhead from my past experience as liaison supporting 70 rural municipalities on behalf of the Minister of Agriculture, I would appreciate getting re-acquainted with the Community. Please consider this as an open invitation to come and meet me and share your stories. Communication leads to understanding and appreciation, which builds healthy trusting relationships. I recently attended the Long Service & Recognition Evening for the County and admire the commitment and longevity of the staff and the support demonstrated by Council, the MLA and public members that were in attendance. It's a family that I feel privileged to have been asked to be a part of.

I look forward to accepting the torch from Mark as he retires from his role as County Manager and begin working with Council, Administration and the Community on the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead for the County of Barrhead.

Take care,

Debbie Oyarzun, M.Sc.



No More Chemical Jugs Accepted at Transfer Stations

As of January 1, 2017, the County of Barrhead will no longer be accepting empty chemical jugs at any of the transfer stations. This is due to the County wanting to minimize the environmental impact from leakage caused by jugs not being properly triple-rinsed with the labels removed by the user.

All empty chemical jugs will now be accepted solely at the jug disposal shed located at the Barrhead Regional Landfill. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Kyle Meunier or Meagan Hoyda with the Agricultural Service Board.