



# Clearwater County Highlights

WINTER  
**2022**

## 2021 YEAR IN REVIEW ISSUE

A NEWSLETTER  
FOR RESIDENTS OF  
CLEARWATER COUNTY

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[clearwatercounty.ca](https://clearwatercounty.ca)



# A Message from the Reeve

Hello everyone,

On behalf of Council, I would like to wish everyone a happy New Year. I hope you enjoyed a safe and happy holiday season. As we look back on the previous year, we can appreciate that 2021 was a busy year, new Councils were elected, there was a federal election, the COVID-19 pandemic remained present, all this being said it was a demanding year, but resilience was everywhere. Our community remained strong, and I am proud to be the Reeve of Clearwater County and sit alongside my fellow Council Members.

Looking back on 2021, some of the major operations and infrastructure projects included the implementation of a new Solid Waste Disposal Access Card System, Highway 11A and RR73A (River Road) Intersection Upgrade, Leslieville East Road Base Pave Project, Speight Road Base Pave Project, and the continued work being done in the Nordegg Historic Commercial Core are just a few examples of the great work being done. See pages 19-22 for some of the project highlights.

Clearwater County completed the construction of the new Leslieville Public Services Building, including the Live Fire Training Tower. This multipurpose building is now home to Leslieville Fire Station #10, and equipment storage for Clearwater County's Public Works and Agriculture & Community Services Departments. See pages 16 for information on the facility.

On December 21, following three-days of budget deliberation Council approved the 2022 operating and capital budgets and the 2022-2025 operating and 2022-2031 capital plans (see pages 8-11 for highlights).

In December, we had the opportunity to meet with Councils from the Town of Rocky Mountain House and Village of Caroline, during this meeting we affirmed our



Daryl Lougheed  
Reeve

municipalities' commitment to creating a shared vision statement for future regional growth to help the municipalities to collaborate, advance shared priorities, and discern needed solutions for shared challenges .

Council believes in the spirit of the 2013 Stronger Together Agreement – Building Opportunities for Our Future, that the development of a common vision for cooperation and collaboration between our municipalities will enable us to take advantage of opportunities for developing common solutions or responses to broader challenges that affect this region.

A Regional Governance Study was conducted in 2021 to identify the most effective governance structure for our region's growth and long-term viability for all citizens within Clearwater County, Village of Caroline, and Town of Rocky Mountain House. The results of the study assured us that the County and Town are viable as individual municipalities, and that the County appears to have the capacity to amalgamate with the Village without materially impacting the annual budget of Clearwater County.

I would like to mention that the role of a Councillor is rewarding and at times challenging. As always residents are encouraged to speak to their Division Councillor if they have concerns or issues that they'd like addressed. Council appreciates respectful and courteous dialogue from community members as the backbone of our community is reflected in how we treat one another. Council's contact information can be found on the next page.

Last year was busy, exciting, and sometimes uncertain but overall, a very successful year, and we are looking forward to what 2022 brings. On behalf of Council, I wish you and your families all the best for 2022.



# Clearwater County Council Term 2021-25



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### Upcoming Regular Council Meetings

- February 8 & 22, 2022
- March 18 & 22, 2022

Council meetings are held the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 9:00 a.m. at Clearwater County's Council Chambers.  
To watch Council meetings online, please visit

[www.clearwatercounty.ca/council](http://www.clearwatercounty.ca/council)



# Council Highlights



## **REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

December 14, 2021

### **Bylaw 1113/21 Application No. 05/21 to amend the Land Use Bylaw**

Council granted second and third readings of Bylaw 1113/21 for application to amend Clearwater County's Land Use Bylaw No. 714/01 to redesignate 9.39 acres from Industrial District "I" to the Agriculture District "A" for the continued residential use of the property.

### **First Reading of Bylaw 1114/21 for Application No. 02/21 to amend the Land Use Bylaw**

Council granted first reading of Bylaw No. 1114/21 for application to amend Clearwater County's Land Use Bylaw 714/01 for application to redesignate +/- 2.01 acres from Country Residence Agricultural "CRA" to Institutional "P" and proceed to public hearing.

### **First Reading of Bylaw 1115/21 for Application No. 06/21 to amend the Land Use Bylaw**

Council granted first reading of Bylaw No. 1115/21 for application to amend Clearwater County's Land Use Bylaw 714/01 for application to redesignate +/- 24.4 acres from the Agriculture District "A" to the Industrial District "I" and proceed to public hearing.

### **Recreation Master Plan Final Report**

Council tabled the Recreation Master Plan Final Report presentation to a future Regular Council Meeting.

### **Public Member Appointment - Rocky Mountain House/Clearwater County Health Professionals Engagement Team**

Council appointed Karen Mehlhaff to the Rocky Mountain House/Clearwater County Health Professionals Engagement Team effective immediately for a term ending October 31, 2022.



# Council Highlights

## REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

January 11, 2022

### Pilot Project - Seniors Social Needs Coordinator Position

Council received a presentation from the former Seniors Social Needs Coordinator on the effectiveness of the Coordinator's role in the communities of Rocky Mountain House, Village of Caroline and Clearwater County over the past year. The presentation also included recommendations for creating an age-friendly community to help seniors live safely, enjoy good health, and stay involved.

### Parkland Airshed Management Zone

Council received a presentation from Parkland Airshed Management Zone representative on how the non-profit organization monitors air quality and implements management strategies to address air quality concerns within the west central region of Alberta.

### Nordegg Naming Contest Results

Council received a presentation regarding the results of the Nordegg Naming Contest for the unnamed lane (access road) and the Nordegg Manufactured Home Subdivision, being named Red Fox Drive and Lynx Lookout.

### History of Council Resolutions Regarding Broadband

Council received the History of Council Decisions related to Broadband (Resolutions from 2017-2021) with notes for information as presented. To learn more about the project, see a list of frequently asked questions, or a progress tracker map, visit [clearwatercounty.ca/broadband](http://clearwatercounty.ca/broadband)

### Communications Protocol for Clearwater County and Light Link Technologies Inc./ Councillor Ratcliffe

Council approved the dissolution of the Internet/Broadband Council Committee effective January 11, 2022.

Council tabled the motion to adopt a Communications Protocol - Pecuniary Interest & Fiduciary Duties until issues with potential pecuniary interest are resolved.

### December 14, 2021 Notices of Motion Item 10.1 - Request for Closed Session with Missing Link Internet Inc. Delegation, and Item 10.2 - Request for Closed Session with Former Councillor(s) Delegation

Council tabled the motion to direct Administration to invite local internet service providers to make a Closed Session presentation, on broadband infrastructure specifications, design, build costs, and business plans at the next regular council meeting pending resolution of potential pecuniary interest issues.

Council defeated the motion to direct Administration to arrange for a Closed Session at the next regular council meeting with available former Councillors from the previous council term 2017-2021, to receive information discussed in previous closed sessions on previous budget and other spending decisions.





# Council Highlights

## **Stronger Together Agreement Renewal and Creation of a Shared Vision**

Council reaffirmed their commitment to the Rocky Mountain House - Clearwater - Caroline Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework Stronger Together Agreement - Building Opportunities for our Future, and tasked the Rocky-Caroline-Clearwater Intermunicipal Collaboration Committee with modernizing that agreement, and creating a draft shared vision for regional collaboration opportunities within the municipalities of Clearwater County, Town of Rocky Mountain House and Village of Caroline.

## **CAO Resignation**

Council accepted Christopher Read's resignation.

## **Transfer of Environmental Reserve Parcels**

Council approved the land titles transfer of 14 environmental/municipal reserve parcels located within Clearwater County boundaries to Clearwater County.

## **REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

January 25, 2022

## **Bylaw 1114/21 Application No. 02/21 to amend the Land Use Bylaw**

Council granted second and third readings of Bylaw 1114/21 for application to amend Clearwater County's Land Use Bylaw No. 714/01 to redesignate +/- 2.01 acres of Plan 4142AR from Country Residence Agricultural "CRA" to Institutional "P"

## **Watershed Planning and Project Coordinator, North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance**

Council received North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance Update Report and results of the Riparian Health Action Plan for information as presented.

## **Speed Limit Reduction on Roadways When Passing School Buses**

Council received a presentation regarding speed limit reduction on roadways when passing school buses for information as presented and directed Administration to send a letter of support to Rural Municipalities of Alberta and the Minister of Transportation in regard to reducing the speed limit to 30 km/hr.

## **Recreation Master Plan Final Report**

Council received the updated Rocky Mountain House Region Recreation Master Plan - Final Report September 2017 with Appendix G - 2021 Recreation Survey Results for information as presented.

## **February 8, 2022, Regular Council Meeting Time Change**

Council rescheduled the February 8, 2022, regular meeting to start at 1:00 pm to accommodate Council's attendance at the municipal engagement session on the Alberta Provincial Police Service Transition Study with the Department of Justice and Solicitor General.

## **Clearwater County Highway Patrol 2021 Annual Report**

Council received the Clearwater County Highway Patrol 2021 Annual Report for information as presented.



# Council Highlights

## Appointment of Interim Chief Administrative Officer

Council appointed Murray Hagan as Interim Chief Administrative Officer as established by Clearwater County Bylaw 1049/18, for a term effective January 19, 2022, until a new Chief Administrative Officer is appointed by Council.

## Clearwater Regional Fire Rescue Service (CRFRS) Capital Budget - Update for Unit 604 Aerial Truck

Council directed Administration to request the Intermunicipal Cooperation (Collaboration) Committee meet to discuss the CRFRS 2022 Capital Budget specific to Aerial Truck Unit 604 replacement cost.

## Code of Conduct Complaint

Council tabled closed session item 12.2 Code of Conduct Complaint: Local Public Bodies Confidences; FOIP s.23 pending receipt of additional information.

## Shared Regional Vision Statement

At a Tri-Council meeting held on December 13, 2021, Clearwater County, Town of Rocky Mountain House, and Village of Caroline Councils all endorsed creating a shared vision statement for future regional growth to help the municipalities to collaborate, advance shared priorities, and discern needed solutions for shared challenges.



For highlights of Council meetings, please visit [www.clearwatercounty.ca/highlights](http://www.clearwatercounty.ca/highlights)

Using the Stronger Together agreement as a foundation, the objective of a shared vision statement is to communicate a strong purpose and motivate people to work together, despite their differences and external obstacles, and focus on accomplishing common goals. A regional vision statement serves to inspire the community to have a clear guide for future courses of action.



Pictured above Clearwater County, Town of Rocky Mountain House, and Village of Caroline Councils



# Approved 2022 Budget

Following three-days of budget deliberations, Clearwater County Council approved the four-year financial and 10-year capital plans in a special meeting held December 21, 2021. These plans include operating and capital budgets for 2022.

The 2022 operating and capital budgets include operating revenues of \$54,502,641 and operating expenses of \$63,022,071 (including amortization) using \$1,744,175 of restricted funds for operations, capital revenue of \$16,771,250 and capital expenses of \$52,379,099, using \$27,662,086 of restricted funds for capital.

This budget represents the fourth year of an annual financial planning and evaluation approach introduced in 2018, where discussions happen year-round to review Council's service levels, capital priorities and resources with respect to the approved four-year strategic plan.

Highlights of capital projects proposed for 2022 include reconstructing River Road (4km) from Hwy 11A to Hwy 11 (\$1.6M) with potential paving in 2023, Beaver Flats Road grading RR 6-0 (8.6Km) from 4.6 Km north of Hwy 12 to Twp Rd 42-0 (\$7.4M), Regional Wastewater Mechanical Treatment System in Leslieville (\$2.3M), upgrades to the Condor sanitary collection mains and improvements to the storm water / curb and gutter system within the Hamlet (\$4.4M), Gravel road rehabilitation (\$4.8M), Bridge rehabilitations and replacements (\$7.7M), Nordegg Phase 2 residential subdivision (\$3.2M) and Nordegg Discover Centre Permanent Displays (\$398,000).

Other notable adjustments to the County's 2022 budget included postponing construction of the Leslieville Salt Storage Facility until an Area Structure Plan (ASP) is in place, and deferral of the broadband project in Ferrier of fibre to the home until Council has had more opportunity to review the proposed project.

*"The 2022 budget, along with our reserve management strategy, together position the County to be able to weather the uncertainty and continue to provide residents and businesses a consistent level of service," said Reeve Daryl Lougheed. "We are a progressive municipality, and it's my hope that we continue to grow our region and its possibilities."*

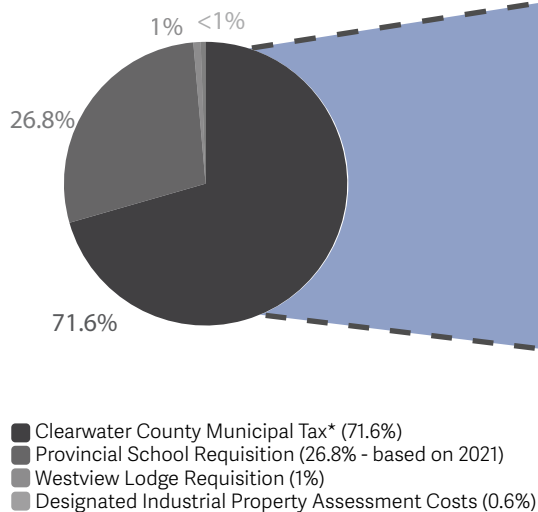




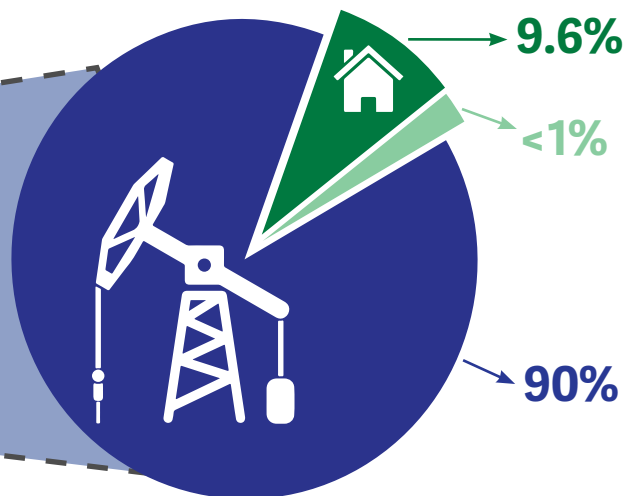
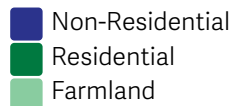
# 2022 Budget Highlights

## Property Tax Collection Breakdown

Each municipality is required to levy taxes on behalf of other organizations and therefore the total tax paid by ratepayers does not stay with the local municipality. The province and the local seniors authority requisition Clearwater County ratepayers for Alberta Education tax, Seniors Housing tax and Designated Industrial property assessment funding.



## Sources of Municipal Taxes\*



\* Each year Clearwater County Council sets property tax rates in the spring to ensure the amount of tax collected will fund the services, projects, debt repayment and restricted surplus accounts that Council approved as priorities during budget deliberations the previous December. The above diagram is based on the 2022 budget figures.

As per the Municipal Corporate Planning Regulation, municipalities must adopt, as a minimum standard, a written three (3)-year financial plan and five (5)-year capital plan in addition to the annual budget.

Clearwater County recently started preparing four-year financial and 10-year capital plans to better plan for large capital projects and ensure the municipality remains in a strong financial position.

Municipalities must prepare financial plans that include:

- anticipated total revenues and total expenditures by major category;
- anticipated annual surplus or deficit; and
- anticipated accumulated surplus or deficit.

Capital plans must include:

- planned capital property additions; and
- allocated or anticipated funding sources.



# Sources of Tax Revenue

Property taxes are the primary source of revenue for Clearwater County. Each year in the spring Council sets property tax rates to ensure service levels align with Council priorities. The actual tax rate will not be finalized until April 2022 after the assessment roll is completed for all properties in the County and all requisition amounts have been received from the Province.

	Operating	Capital	Total
Municipal tax revenues	\$ 46,612,637.00	\$	46,612,637.00
User fees and sales of goods	2,445,887.00		2,445,887.00
Government transfers	1,108,912.00	16,771,250.00	17,880,162.00
Investment income	2,000,000.00		2,000,000.00
Penalties & cost of taxes	735,000.00		735,000.00
Dev. Levies, permits and licenses	36,000.00		36,000.00
Oil well drilling taxes	-		-
Other revenue	1,345,325.00		1,345,325.00
Rental revenue	218,880.00		
<b>Total revenues</b>	<b>54,502,641.00</b>	<b>16,771,250.00</b>	<b>71,273,891.00</b>
Transfers from restricted surplus	1,744,175.00	27,662,086.00	29,406,261.00
<b>Total funding sources</b>	<b>\$ 56,246,816.00</b>	<b>\$ 44,433,336.00</b>	<b>\$ 100,680,152.00</b>

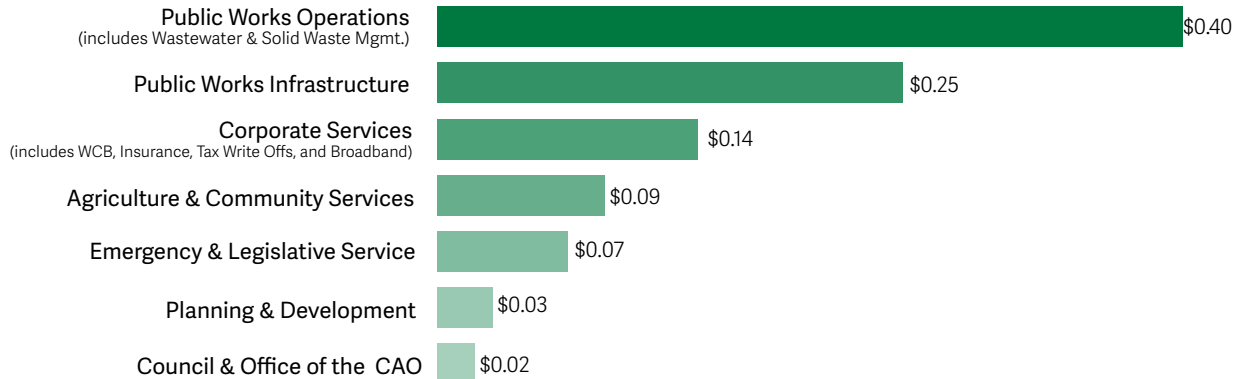
## Expenditures

	Operating	Capital	Total
Agriculture & Community Services	\$ 6,125,736.00	\$ 1,996,828.00	\$ 8,122,564.00
Corporate Services	7,903,540.00	5,364,819.00	13,268,359.00
Office of the CAO	1,114,679.00	-	1,114,679.00
Emergency & Legislative Services	5,081,394.00	1,273,900.00	6,355,294.00
Planning & Development	2,587,692.00	398,000.00	2,985,692.00
Public Works Infrastructure	2,860,907.00	21,198,840.00	24,059,747.00
Public Works Operations	15,946,873.00	22,146,712.00	38,093,585.00
Council	701,250.00	-	701,250.00
Contingency	500,000.00	-	500,000.00
Amortization	20,200,000.00	-	20,200,000.00
<b>Total expenditures</b>	<b>63,022,071.00</b>	<b>52,379,099.00</b>	<b>115,401,170.00</b>
less amortization			(20,200,000.00)
Principal payments on long term debt			400,532.00
Transfers to restricted surplus			5,078,450.00
<b>Total expenditures and transfers</b>	<b>\$ 63,022,071.00</b>	<b>\$ 52,379,099.00</b>	<b>\$ 100,680,152.00</b>



# How each municipal tax dollar is spent?

This diagram provides a snapshot of how one dollar (\$1) of Clearwater County's municipal tax revenue is allocated (based on the proposed 2022 budgeted operating and capital expenses, not including transfers to restricted surplus or restricted funding used for tangible capital assets).



## 2022 State of the County Address

**"It is important to note that the political and economic reality of the region is always changing, and some of these changes are beyond the control of this Council. Likewise, as administration works to implement Council's strategic direction, we must be flexible and adaptive to reflect the current needs, priorities, and environment of Clearwater County."**

-Daryl Lougheed, Reeve

On January 19, 2022, Reeve Lougheed presented the 2022 State of the County Address at the Chamber of Commerce Lunch n' Learn. This annual speech talked about recapping the previous year and looking at what the new year will bring.

A video recording of the presentation is available on [Clearwater County's YouTube channel](#).

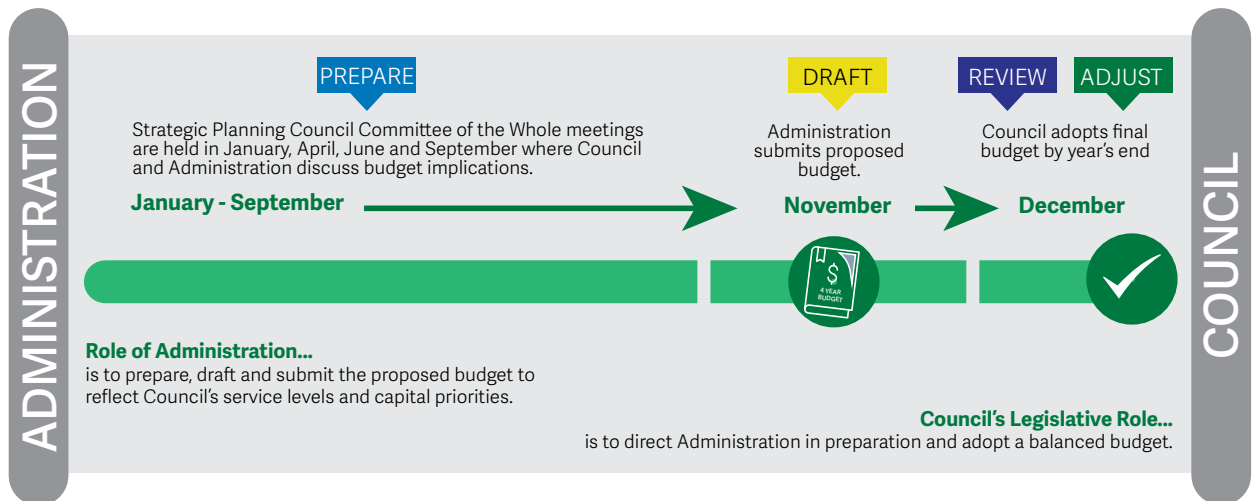


# The Budget Process

Administration prepares a budget to cover the next year's anticipated operating and capital costs. This budget is then reviewed by Clearwater County Council during meetings that run over multiple days (Strategic Planning Council Committee of the Whole meetings - or budget deliberations).

The Operations budget is prepared to a four-year outlook, but reviewed and approved yearly.

Capital budgets are prepared for a ten-year outlook as per the Municipal Government Act (MGA) and submitted to the Provincial government when preparing grant applications for funding.



# 180 Days' Priorities Tracker

PRIORITIES	LAST 180 DAYS July 1 – December 31, 2021	NEXT 180 DAYS January 1 – June 30, 2022
Create a broadband/internet business plan and community-wide infrastructure masterplan concurrently	Phase 1, 2, and 6 near completion. Business plan development underway.	Draft business plan review in February. Public Participation/Engagement ongoing.
Review eastern fire hall(s) decision and construct Leslieville Public Services Building	New Leslieville Public Services Building, home to Leslieville Fire Station #10 and training facility open and operational.	Phase two of the firefighter training grounds, props and concrete pads to be constructed in 2022.
Ten-year Capital planning	Budget deliberations occurred Dec 15 - 17, 2021. 2022 budget approved December 21, 2021.	Strategic Planning meetings scheduled in January and April to plan for 2023-2033 capital planning
Shared Regional Vision Statement	Tri-Council meeting between County, Town and Village took place on Dec 13. All councils endorsed creating a shared vision statement for future regional growth and partnership.	In progress.
Nordegg Development Plan Update	Council approved Nordegg Development Plan Update to reflect updated circumstances, eliminate redundant or achieved objectives and make the document more concise.	
Municipal Development Plan Review	On hold due to COVID-19 social gathering restrictions.	Public Participation/Engagement Plan TBD
Nordegg Historic Commercial Core	Completion of sanitary and water service installations.	
Rural Policing	Discussion took place reviewing new provincial model and impact to Clearwater County prior to budget discussions.	Council to advocate on behalf of residents
Senior Housing	Council approved \$40,000 to fund a project plan for the Caroline seniors' housing project plan prepared by Keys2Housing Communities that includes conceptual design work plan. Business care model, that the project plan is reviewed by a third party upon completion and that funds come from contingency.	
Regional Governance Study	Recommendation of combining the municipal governments of Clearwater County and Village of Caroline was the result of the regional governance study in July.	Next steps would be meeting with Village/County to determine additional studies /process steps required





# 2021 Year in Review - Ag. & Community Services

## Agricultural Programs

- Soil Conservation Act; Animal Health Act; Weed Act; Agricultural Pest Act; Weed Extension; Eradicable Weed Program; Community Weed Control & On Crown Land; Realtor Workshop; Rental Equipment; Alberta Weed Free Hay Certificate; Custom Spray Program; Education Ag Tour (EAT); West County Ag. Tour (WCAT); Cattlemen's Day; Rural Beautification Awards; Farm Family Awards; Age Verification, Alberta Livestock & Meat Strategy

## Community Services

- Through grants, resources and programs, local organizations were supported in the areas of Community, Culture, Seniors, Youth, Animal Services and Rural Health.
- In Recreation, safety improvements have been made to the infrastructure of County managed campgrounds. Bear education workshops were held to help mitigate dangerous wildlife interactions. Recreational grant funding through the newly established Raven and North Saskatchewan Recreation Boards has offered opportunities to local groups and has shown a steady uptake.
- Despite COVID restriction, Ag. & Community Services was able to support several local events including Indigenous Days and Mini Powwow, Battle of the Rockies, and the Parade of Lights.
- The first Clearwater County Homeschool Scholarship was awarded to Bryn Gale along with four scholarships presented annually to the County's four high schools. Recipients of the high school scholarships were Vera Brettelle, St Doms; Julianna Valstar, David Thompson; Ava Beisal, David Thompson and Tristan Simo, Caroline.

**\$308,015** value of herbicide  
sold controlling 7,241 acres  
209 weed inspections completed

## Vegetation Management

- 32 kms of roadside seeding;
- 275 kms of proactive roadside brush control;
- Roadside weed control was done on 2,450 kms and 163 kms was sprayed for Alberta Highways;
- 2,981 kms of county road allowance was sprayed; and,
- 1,282 kms of road was mowed in total for 2021.



## Clearwater Landcare

- Sasquatch merchandise items, retail and giveaway, can be found at various campgrounds and information centers within the Clearwater County area helping to spread the backyard messaging.
- There are currently 17, and soon to be 19, sign locations for raising awareness of responsible behavior while enjoying the wilderness. A new 12ft sign was installed in 2021 at the corner between the Red Deer River PRA and Ya Ha Tinda Rd on highway 734. Two more blue "Welcome to our Backyard" signs will be installed in the Spring 2022 at Jackfish Lake and Hwy 22 South where the Mountain View County border meets Clearwater County. These signs are intended to be installed in locations that are a gateway to the west country and have been made possible through out the years due to the generosity of industry partners.

Pasture herbicides for noxious  
weeds were applied on more than

**1,700 acres**

servicing a total of  
**53 individual landowners**



# 2021 Year in Review - Corporate Services

Corporate Services manages the County's organization-wide services, including financial reporting, assessment, property taxes, accounts payable and receivable, capital project financing and tracking, utilities, corporate communications, network user support, geographic information systems (GIS), and broadband fibre planning and implementation.

## 2021 ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Completed the implementation of budgeting software solutions, continued to work through budget process efficiencies and successfully delivered the 2022 budget.
- Created process improvements by transitioning paper processes to digital format.



**3,779**  
**FACEBOOK**  
**FOLLOWERS**



**1,667**  
**TWITTER**  
**FOLLOWERS**



**130** SUBSCRIBERS

**49 VIDEOS UPLOADED IN 2021**

**67 COUNCIL MEETINGS LIVE  
STREAMED AND RECORDED**



**13,982**  
**ASSESSMENT &  
TAXATION  
ACCOUNTS\***

**\* 5,269 of these properties are  
residential**



**Leslieville**  
**72 Accounts**  
**for Sewer**

**Condor**  
**48 Accounts**  
**for Sewer**

**Nordegg**  
**31 Accounts**  
**for Water & Sewer**



# 2021 Year in Review - Emergency & Leg. Services

## Clearwater Regional Fire Rescue Services 2021 Call Statistics

<b>Rescue</b>	<b>157</b>
Motor Vehicle Incidents	110
Ice / Water	7
Off Highway Vehicles (OHV) Incidents	16
Farm	1
Industrial	2
Power Lines	6
Other	9
Mutual Aid	6
<b>Investigation</b>	<b>143</b>
Fire Investigation	2
Odour Complaint	4
Public Service	6
Carbon Monoxide	11
False Alarm	112
Citizen Assist	8
<b>Fire</b>	<b>133</b>
Structure	25
Brush / Grass	2
Wildland Urban Interface (WUI)	63
Vehicle	34
Oil & Gas	1
Other	8
<b>Medical</b>	<b>211</b>
Co-Response	98
First Response	113



In July, Clearwater Regional Fire Rescue Services (CRFRS) annual advancement ceremony took place for Firefighters for their achievements in completing the required training to advance to Level I firefighters.



Leslieville Public Services Building (LPSB), home to Leslieville Fire Station #10, which includes the Live Fire training facility opened in mid to late 2021. Similar to the Condor Public Services Building, both locations are utilized for County equipment storage, and will be utilized by the County's field staff when working in the region.



# 2021 Year in Review - Emergency & Leg. Services

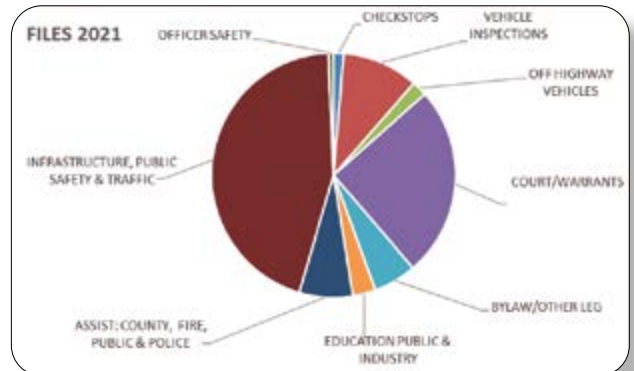


## Legislative Services

- Clearwater County's municipal election took place October 2021 with the most significant change being implementation of a voters' list. Over 40% voter turnout at 16 voting locations and two advance vote locations meant over 3,500 votes cast. I
- In 2021, Clearwater County completed its remaining Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework (ICF) in accordance with the *Municipal Government Act* (MGA) and continues with the process of updating many intermunicipal and mutual aid agreements. The process to revisit the County's existing 13 ICFs will begin again in 2023.
- Clearwater County's Subdivision and Development Appeal Board (SDAB) heard three formal appeals in 2021.

## Emergency Management

- In 2021, Clearwater County Council adopted Bylaw 1108/21 and received Ministerial Order in September creating a new regional emergency management partnership with the Village of Caroline and Summer Village of Burnstick Lake.
- The County's emergency management committee and agency met in 2021 to review the County's existing Emergency Management Program.
- Various County staff participated in a tabletop, virtual and in person emergency exercises and training in 2021 for municipal, regional and industry disaster event scenarios. Exercising and training help maintain skill sets should a disaster occur in the region.



## Community Peace Officers

- CPOs conducted patrols in the interest of public safety and infrastructure protection, with CPO Program priorities set out in a three-year traffic safety plan to ensure consistent messaging through education, awareness and enforcement.
- All members of the Emergency and Legislative Services team work in partnership with RCMP detachments including Rocky Mountain House, Sundre and Rimbey, as well as with various provincial departments.
- CPOs monitored traffic on roads to ensure weight compliance, commercial hauls, OHVs and traffic safety on County roads in an effort to reduce fatalities and serious injuries on roads.
- In 2021, CPOs participated in several Joint Force Operations surrounding long weekends and various community engagement opportunities.





# Wildland Urban Interface - FireSmart Project

In 2021, Clearwater County's Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) team showcased how FireSmart principles can be applied to your acreage or farmland by clearing a section of County property in the Ferrier community.

Crews spent over 270 hours clearing approximately 67,400 lbs of wood all by hand either chipped and hauled away. In addition, approximately 5,000 lbs was burned.

The FireSmart program identifies 4 priority zones that must be managed to reduce the wildfire threat to your home. The Non-Combustible Zone, Priority Zone 1 and Priority Zone 2 are the most critical—this is known as the Home Ignition Zone (HIZ). Homeowners, builders and landscapers should focus on reducing the risks in the HIZ.

In addition to the actual building design and construction material used to construct your home, the type of plant material and the design of the landscape immediately adjacent to your home is a critical factor in determining the likelihood of your home surviving a wildfire.

The WUI team is able to provide two types of assessments:

1. Neighborhood Assessment
2. Home Owner Assessment

If you are interested in learning more about incorporating FireSmart principles on your property, [FireSmart Canada](#) has resources for like brochures, manuals, and checklists. Or contact our WUI team by calling the County's main office at 403-845-4444.





# 2021 Year in Review - Planning & Development

Planning and Development is responsible for the implementation of statutory plans and the review and processing of development related applications, proposed subdivision applications and applications to rezone land. This Department provides advice to County Council, the Subdivision Authority and the Municipal Planning Commission.

Below is a breakdown of permits applied for:

<b>Clearwater County</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
Residential \$	\$7,827,000	\$11,601,800	<b>\$16,915,250</b>
Commercial \$	\$125,000	\$65,000	<b>\$270,000</b>
Industrial \$	\$130,000	\$80,000	-
Institutional & Govt \$	\$14,000	-	<b>\$461,000</b>
New residences by #	24	46	<b>76</b>



Lots for sale in the hamlet of Nordegg

- **5 Economic Development Strategy Videos released**
- **4 Podcast videos released about the role of broadband in education and business**
- **5 Podcast videos releases discussing safety with Rocky Mountain House Search and Rescue**
- **1 Podcast video released of interview with Brett Pawlyk about enjoying and caring for David Thompson Country**
- **3 Videos on Planning permits and processes**



David Thompson Country has over 5,300 fans on Facebook



over 9,200 on Instagram



over 650 on twitter



# 2021 Year in Review - Public Works

- Highlights of 2021 include completion of Leslieville Public Services Building, Leslieville Training Tower
- Completion of the Nordegg Manufactured Home Subdivision fencing, preliminary engineering for South Townsite Access Road, Historic Commercial Core shallow utility work and landscaping.
- Decking and handrail for Taunton Bridge (220m) \*\*\* Project still in progress, final completion date is February 2022



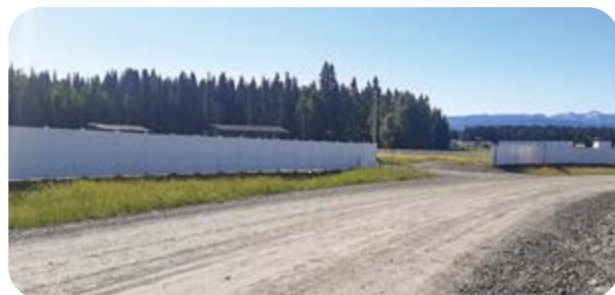
Leslieville Fire Station #10 Training Tower



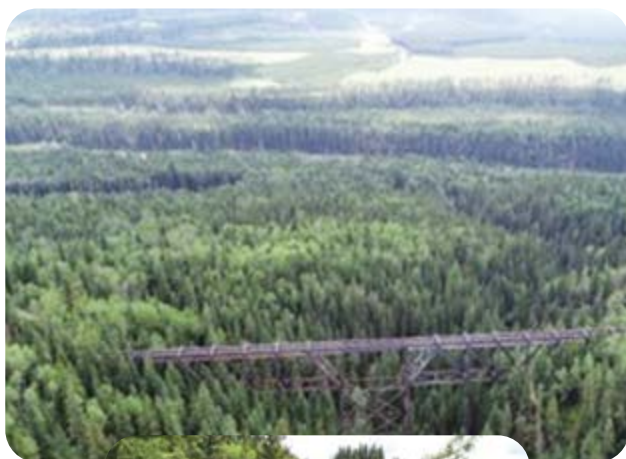
Nordegg Town Site



Nordegg



Fencing at Lynx Lookout (new subdivision name for Nordegg Manufactured Home Subdivision)



Taunton Bridge



# 2021 Year in Review - Public Works

- Rail Trail - Additional Trail Development from Harlech to Alexo (15km). In 2021 the trail was completed from Forestry Trunk Road to Alexo.
- Nordegg Broadband Tower Site – Tower site preparation in Caroline and Nordegg.
- Base Course/ Pavement - Highlights of 2021 include Speight Road (Twp Rd 39-0) Base / Pavement Project and River Road (RR7-3A) Intersection treatment and access realignment.
- Asphalt Overlay – Sunchild Road
- Grading Projects - Leslieville East Road from Hwy 761 to the Withrow Road.
- Caroline Lot 7 Block 3 – House removed. Staff made arrangements to clean debris and backfill basement.



Rail Trail Development



Broadband Tower Site



River Road intersection treatment



Speight Road



Primary Sign



Secondary Sign

In 2021, four primary and three secondary **"Welcome to Clearwater County"** entrance signs were installed to replace seven existing signs with inconsistent logos and sign styles in each of the main highway entrances into the County. These signs are significant because they provide the first introduction and impression of our community to visitors, potential investors and future residents.





# 2021 Year in Review - Public Works



## Line Painting

- 225.99 km (dividing and edge lines)
- 20.31 km (dividing line only)
- 26 each ("STOP AHEAD" messages)
- 9 each (Stop Bars)
- 6 each (Railway Crossings)

## Crack Seal

- 117,475 m of cracks sealed



Nordegg Street Lights installed to meet design guidelines as per Nordegg Development Plan:

**11** custom streetlights along Stuart Street

**3** highway lights on David Thompson Highway intersection



One bridge repair completed in 2021 -



Two bridge replacements completed in 2021 -



# Assessment Frequently Asked Questions



## Why has the assessed value of my residential or commercial property changed?

There are several reasons why your assessment may have changed. If the values have changed in your area, the assessment will be adjusted to reflect the new market value of your property. Any physical changes to the property that would increase/decrease the market value will change the assessment. If your previous property assessment did not accurately reflect market value, an adjustment may have been made to correct this.

## What assessment information is available to me?

The total assessment and breakdown of land and improvements values is available to all property owners. The Assessment department can provide this information at any time. Owner information is protected under the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIP)* and is available to the property owner only or an authorized representative.

## I just bought my property, why is the assessment different?

All assessments are based upon market value. An estimate of market value is determined by average sales prices with the municipality for similar properties using comparable sales. The assessment should reflect what the property would be valued as of July 1 year prior and any physical changes as of December 31 of that year.

## What can I do if I disagree with my assessment?

Please call the main office to speak to the Assessment Department about your concern(s). If valid evidence is presented, regarding the accuracy of assessment information, we will update the county records immediately. Quite often, disagreements are the result of not understanding the assessment process.

If, after the Assessment department has explained your assessment and you still have unresolved concerns, you may file a complaint with the Regional Assessment Review Board. It must be filed within 60 days from the date your assessment notice was mailed. The final date for appeal is on your assessment notice.

Assessment complaints must be accompanied by the assigned fee, or they will not be accepted. If an assessment complaint is successful, the complaint fee will be refunded.

Provincial legislation outlines how property assessment complaints must be made. Please contact the Regional Assessment Review Board for further information:

**Phone:** 403-342-8132

**Email:** [regionalarb@reddeer.ca](mailto:regionalarb@reddeer.ca)

**Website:** [reddeer.ca/rarb](http://reddeer.ca/rarb)





# Farm Technology Rebate Program

The Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP) **Farm Technology Program** supports the adoption of innovative technology that minimizes agricultural waste, optimizes farm efficiency, and encourages the adoption of best management practices in farm security.

The 2021-2023 program-funding maximum is **\$48,000** for Farm Technology and **\$2,000** for Farm Security. The maximum amount is \$50,000 over the program term. Grant funding cost share is 50% of eligible expenses.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Purchases made before the program receives the application are ineligible for reimbursement. All purchases must meet the requirements as stated in the Programs Terms and Conditions and applications will be assessed based on the program eligibility criteria section 3. All application information and supporting documents must be included to facilitate this assessment (i.e. quotations, spec sheets, or letters of support).

The funding list will be updated periodically over the course of the program. Please subscribe to the Farm Technology website to be notified of any Funding List changes (<https://cap.alberta.ca/CAP/Programs>).

FARM TECHNOLOGY FUNDING LIST	
Ineligible Expenses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Equipment eligible under the Efficient Grain Handling Program &amp; the Irrigation Efficiency Program</li> <li>GPS Location Sensors</li> </ul>
Category	Eligible Expenses
1	Electronic soil sensors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Electromagnetic                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Salinity, organic matter, moisture data</li> </ul> </li> <li>Electrochemical                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nitrate, potassium, hydrogen ion (pH) data</li> </ul> </li> <li>Soil compaction sensors</li> </ul>
2	Farm equipment-mounted sensors and cables <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Optical sensors                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vegetative index data</li> <li>Grain protein, oil, starch content data</li> </ul> </li> <li>Yield sensors                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Including hay bale</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
3	Farm equipment-mounted data collection and data storage units for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Accelerometers</li> <li>Gyroscopes</li> <li>Magnetometers</li> <li>Altimeters</li> </ul>
4	Electronic livestock ID readers
5	Other sensors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Leaf wetness sensors</li> <li>Bee hive temperature, humidity, audio and movement sensors</li> </ul>
6	Technologically Innovative and Technology that is beyond a research stage and is commercially available and successfully demonstrated to work in Alberta. <p>NOTE: Any items listed as ineligible are not eligible in this category.</p>
7	Internet Boosters – <b>MAXIMUM \$2,000 GRANT</b>
FARM SECURITY FUNDING LIST	
Eligible Expenses	Ineligible Expenses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GPS Equipment Tracker</li> <li>Remote Monitoring Cameras</li> <li>Remote Fuel Tank Monitors</li> <li>Wireless Base Stations (Gateways)</li> <li>Motion Detectors/Driveway Alert Systems</li> <li>Door Sensors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bluetooth Trackers</li> <li>Regular Fuel Tank Monitors</li> <li>Installation Costs</li> <li>Lighting Systems</li> <li>Alarms</li> </ul>

# Can Groundwater be Renewed?

Cursing icy roads and drifts of snow may have been a popular conversation topic last week, but whether folks are excited about winter or hoping for a brown Christmas, there are positives to the cold blanket that fell upon us.

Combined with a slow spring melt, a snowy winter contributes to the recharging of fields, streams, wetlands, and lakes. In a 2014 news article titled “Why a bad winter is actually good”, University of Waterloo professor Richard Kelly also stated that “Snow is a renewable resource. So, if you have a good accumulation of snow, and it stays around and doesn’t melt out quickly, there’s the possibility of ground water recharge”.

About 21% of Albertans rely on groundwater for their main supply, but due to depth, estimates indicate that only 0.01% of the 40,000 km<sup>3</sup> is actually accessible. This kind of knowledge is important when taking steps to preserve our groundwater supply.

Where fields, streams, wetlands, and lakes show an immediate observable response to high rain and snowfall events, groundwater is not really as renewable as we think and takes much more time to recover.

In a recent study published in Nature Geoscience, University of Victoria hydro-geologist Tom Gleeson and team highlight that only 6% of groundwater around the world is replaced in a lifetime of 50 years.

By testing for traces of tritium, a radioactive form of hydrogen that was introduced into water supplies due to nuclear testing in the 1960s, the researchers could determine newer groundwater from old.

“They also confirmed the total quantity of groundwater around the world using a variety of data like



the permeability of rock to the flow of water and how much water could be stored in different places, based on how porous the rock there was”.

Gleeson and team estimated that there was enough groundwater in the world to submerge all the land on Earth to a depth of 180 meters. The amount that was renewable was no more than 1.3 million cubic kilometers or less than 6% of this estimate.

This is believed to be a high estimate because of the types of rock in the area where measurements were taken. Modified estimates show that the actual amount of renewable groundwater is closer to 0.35 million cubic kilometers, or enough to submerge the land on Earth to a depth of 3 meters.

Although a drastic drop, that amount of groundwater is still quite extensive, being “three times larger than all other fresh water contained in lakes and rivers on Earth”. Even distribution is the issue.

In arid regions, such as California and the U.S. Midwest, where groundwater has been continuously removed for many years, Gleeson’s research showed that these areas are now tapping into “non-renewable” water that is thousands of years old.



# Cattle Wintering Sites Provide Lessons



As local farmers enter the heart of winter, having settled into the routine of feeding, it is a good time to evaluate how well the wintering site is functioning, especially from the economic, environmental and herd health perspectives.

In the months ahead as calving begins, it is a great time to focus on fine tuning winter management practices, paying particular attention to the concentration of cattle, where they are fed and the management of the manure they leave behind.

As with every business, new and innovative approaches arise, often inspired by the farmer on the ground making creative decisions to squeeze more cents out of a dollar.

In the past, traditional wintering sites were often chosen based on requirements that would not be appropriate today but have continued to be used out of habit or convenience.

Locations were often selected based on easy access to water and natural shelter, at a time when environmental awareness was less a priority and flexible alternative watering methods had yet to be developed.

A good reminder published recently in Agriculture News states that “wintering sites must be sited and managed to protect surface water and are regulated under the Agricultural Operation Practices Act.”

Since cattle tend to collect in low areas it was natural to pick locations near creeks or rivers with ready access to water and the shelter of banks and trees to offer relief from brutal winter winds.

With greater environmental awareness cattlemen have come to realize the need for change in some farm practices, many of which are slowly being implemented.

Every operation is unique in its scope and geography requiring innovative approaches to management change. As is often the case these modifications can offer unseen opportunities for expansion and improvement.

They can also bolster economic returns, improve herd health and streamline the operation, while still operating in harmony with nature.

Most cattlemen are aware of the obvious effects that a wintering site has on spring surface run-off, erosion and the spread of pathogens. Having already made some changes, the question to ask is, are there more opportunities for improvement?

In a paper produced by the Saskatchewan Agriculture, Food and Rural Revitalization division it was stated that “All wintering sites involve some degree of manure management. Increasing the distance between manure sources, such as bedding and feeding areas, and the watercourse will reduce manure accumulation.”

Most local producers have already taken into consideration slope and drainage issues and have a plan for the manure. Fewer have likely considered incorporating alternative feeding practices including options like bale or swath grazing to effectively utilize manure resources or allow for lower stocking concentrations with less environmental impact.



# Free Rec Pass & Outdoors App

## Free Recreation Pass

*Recreation* & Community Services  
Town of Rocky Mountain House

To encourage active seniors, we offer a complimentary Recreation Pass to all those 75 years of age and older. This includes access to the fitness centre, public skating, public and length swim.



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**Aquatic Centre**

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[alberta.ca/working-well.aspx](https://alberta.ca/working-well.aspx)





# Clearwater Regional FCSS

Clearwater Regional Family & Community Support Services (FCSS) is a partnership between the Province, municipalities and Métis Settlements that develops locally driven social programs that are preventive in nature to promote and enhance well-being among individuals, families and communities.



## Program Highlights:

- Monthly collaborations with FRN including Lego Club on the second Tuesday of the month (RMH) and fourth Tuesday of the month (Caroline), monthly Paint Nites, DIY Divas and more.
- Collaboration with PCAP (Parent Child Assistance Program) at the Mountain Rose Centre to provide enrichment every Thursday of each month.
- CVITP (community volunteer income tax program) year round with clinics each Thursday from 10am-2pm in March and April (RMH), and 4th Tuesday from 10am-12pm in Caroline
- Outreach in Caroline monthly from 10am-12pm on the fourth Tuesday of each month
- Rural LINK – intergenerational programming between ERE and Westview Lodge; currently seeking pen pals (seniors and youth/others who would like to connect)
- Other collaborations as they arise with various community groups such as Asokewin, Legacy Youth and more
- Connecting volunteers with volunteer positions on an as needed basis and keeping them up to date with monthly newsletters.

## 2022 CRFCSS Funding Application:

Grant application deadlines (for non-profit organizations/events/projects) are March 1, May 1, and October 1, 2022.

## Coming up for the Spring/Summer 2022:

- Volunteer Appreciation Week (April 24-30, 2022)
- Seniors/Elders Week (June 6-12, 2022)
- Adulting 101 Conference - May 6, 2022
- Girls/Guys Unleashed Programming in August 2022
- Home Alone Course
- Babysitting Course and more...

## Information about FCSS:

- [www.fcssaa.org](http://www.fcssaa.org)
- [www.rockymtnhouse.com/p/fcss-family-community-support-services](http://www.rockymtnhouse.com/p/fcss-family-community-support-services)

Search **"Clearwater Regional FCSS"** on Facebook and Instagram for current program & service information.



# 2022 Interagency Meeting Dates



Join our group for monthly meetings to find out what's new with local non-profit programs & services. We also discuss community issues & partnership opportunities.

**JANUARY 25TH - CAROLINE**

**FEBRUARY 16TH - RMH**

**MARCH 29TH - CAROLINE**

**APRIL 20TH - RMH**

**MAY 31ST - CAROLINE**

**JUNE 15TH - RMH**

**JULY & AUGUST - NO MEETINGS**

**SEPTEMBER 27TH - CAROLINE**

**OCTOBER 19TH - RMH**

**NOVEMBER 29TH - CAROLINE**

**DECEMBER 21ST - RMH**

**ROCKY MOUNTAIN HOUSE MEETINGS WILL BE HELD AT THE CHRISTENSON SPORTS & WELLNESS CENTRE FROM 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM**

**CAROLINE MEETINGS WILL BE HELD AT THE CAROLINE LEGION STARTING AT 11:30 AM**

**\*MEETINGS MAY BE VIRTUAL - REMINDERS ARE SENT OUT BEFOREHAND.**

**\*\*Currently virtual until in-person meetings can occur**



# Do you Listen to Podcasts?

A podcast is an audio programme - just like Talk Radio - or audio episode on a particular topic or theme, like cycling or startups. To listen to a podcast you can subscribe to the show with an app on your smartphone and listen to episodes whenever you like on your headphones, in the car or through speakers.

Clearwater County started a podcast in 2021 to help improve government transparency, increase public education on programs, services and other initiatives that impact residents and businesses.

Clearwater County Podcasts are on going conversations about the issues that matter to residents and businesses of Clearwater County.

- Audio versions are available on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Google Podcasts, Amazon Music and other streaming devices.
- Video versions are available on our YouTube channel or on the County's website.



# Frequently Requested Numbers

Clearwater County Office .....	403 845 4444
Clearwater County Office Fax .....	403 845 7330
Clearwater Mutual Aid Co-op (CMAC) – Oil & Gas Emergency .....	403 844 8500
Clearwater County After Hours Emergency Number .....	1 866 950 CMAC (2622)
24-Hour Burn Notification Line .....	403 845 7711
Alberta One Call .....	1 800 242 3447
Alberta Environment .....	403 845 8240
Alberta Land Titles .....	780 427 2742
Rocky Mountain House & District Chamber of Commerce .....	403 845 5450
Family and Community Support Services .....	403 845 3720
Fish and Wildlife .....	403 845 8230
Health Unit .....	403 845 3030
Highway Services – Volker Stevin .....	1 888 877 6237
Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) Jason Nixon .....	403 871 0701
Town of Rocky Mountain House .....	403 845 2866
Village of Caroline .....	403 722 3781
Summer Village of Burnstick Lake .....	<a href="http://www.burnsticklakesummervillage.ca">www.burnsticklakesummervillage.ca</a>
Fire Ban Information .....	<a href="http://www.albertafirebans.ca">www.albertafirebans.ca</a>



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[ecdev@clearwatercounty.ca](mailto:ecdev@clearwatercounty.ca)



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[admin@clearwatercounty.ca](mailto:admin@clearwatercounty.ca)

Call us at 403-845-4444  
Office Hours: Weekdays, 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.



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