

As we all enjoy the warmth and beauty of the fall and the return of the Canada Geese calling over head reminding us to prepare for winter, your Council continues to work hard to make solid, well thought-out decisions that will impact our communities this fall and for the long term.

Road Chipsealing:

I have had several questions in regard to the County's approach to re surfacing the chipseal roads like the Blindline road project that was completed by contract workers this summer. Why didn't we do the road repair, (rebase it, widen it etc.) needed before we simply re surfaced it? These projects were done to simply keep them sealed a bit longer and protect the integrity of what we have; it was never intended to be a full fix. I agree it is necessary to improve the base under some portions of our chipseal roads. Once we have caught up with our chipsealing (\$12,000,000 over 3 years, only includes surface overlay) Council will need to look at annually selecting roads where basework will be undertaken before re-chipping. For that program, an assessment of the base for all chipseal roads will need to be undertaken so we can set some priorities.

Full permitting: The County will now be offering a "one stop shop" service to our rate payers. As of Oct 1st we will offer full permitting at the County Office: building, plumbing, electrical, private sewage and gas permits will all be available. Council is currently looking at the option of payments for these services being made by credit card.

Changes on the MPC: Council is currently considering changing the Municipal Planning Commission membership to all area residents and no Council members, which historically has been the way subdivision and developments have been reviewed. One definite plus, is that it will free councilors up to help our area residents with their applications for subdivision. Currently, because we sit on this board we are not, by Alberta law, permitted to be involved with an application before it comes before the MPC for decision.

Sustainability Plan: Council has done a couple of workshops on our sustainability plan this past month. Information will be shared and input sought after, at the fall Open Houses. My open house will be joint with Councilor Page, **Oct 26 - Midway School 7:30 pm**

Offsite Levy Bylaw : The intent of this bylaw is to help fund the long term build out of the County Collector Network (CCN) paved road system from new growth in the County that impacts the use of our road systems. Many hours and a great deal of thought and investigation have been invested into this bylaw over the past 18 months. This proposed bylaw will impact development fees and rezoning fees etc. Agricultural development may be except as well as secondary residences. It is still being negotiated but will come to Council for approval this fall. We are the only Rural Municipality on the Highway 2 Corridor without such a bylaw. The other option (supported by the Developers in the County) is to simply increase the taxes on all our ratepayers to pay for the future build out of our CCN. I'd love to hear your comments on this issue so I can confidently be your voice at the table. Please watch for further updates on the County website and the paper. I'll share more on this in a future article as we move along in the process, we looking at a possible implementation as early as January 2010.

Please call me for advice on your subdivision plans prior to putting in your application to the County. By law I'm not allowed to give my assistance to you after your application is submitted as I sit on the MPC (currently) and that board makes the decision about your application.

Have a happy and safe harvest season.

Please come out to the Open House **Oct 26**, call or email any time, cell 403-998-2729 or gwen.day@mountainviewcounty.com

