

COUNTY CHRONICLE

EDITION 4 | DECEMBER 2024



Winter Lights competition is lighting up the County

'Tis the season for beautiful light displays and we want to see them! Our Winter Lights competition is well underway and while registration to compete is closed, residents and visitors are encouraged to tour the County and vote on their favourites!

Visit leduc-county.com/winter-lights-competition to view the map, plan your route and cast your vote by Jan. 10, 2025.



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Seniors grants opening on Jan. 2

Applications for Leduc County seniors grants for 2025 are open starting Jan. 2. The program is designed to provide funding support to organizations and volunteer groups who will create new opportunities for Leduc County seniors to connect, engage and contribute to their communities. Grant applications must meet one of the following objectives:

- ▶ promote and encourage active engagement and volunteerism
- ▶ foster a sense of belonging
- ▶ promote social inclusion
- ▶ develop and maintain healthy relationships
- ▶ enhance access to social supports
- ▶ develop and strengthen skills that build resilience

Examples include seniors' information sessions, intergenerational activities and creating new volunteer opportunities.

Up to \$15,000 will be distributed among groups to develop programs, projects or events that prioritize aging well, inclusion and diversity or connection and engagement.

Applications are open from **Jan. 2 to 31, 2025**. Visit leduc-county.com/grants to learn more about eligibility and the application process.



Message from Council

Reflecting with thanks

The Christmas season is both a time of reflection and planning. We reflect on the year that has passed — remembering successes and struggles — and look ahead to the new year, planning projects and setting new goals.

Leduc County Council is grateful for what 2024 gave us, including several community events that brought us together, the ability to set and maintain a healthy and balanced budget, and of course the completion of several projects that have benefited our municipality.

As we look ahead to 2025, we are excited for what's planned, including the start of a monthly newsletter delivered to your homes beginning in February.

On behalf of Leduc County Council, we wish you a merry Christmas and a joy-filled New Year.



Leduc County approves 2025 interim budget

Following this year's budget deliberations, Leduc County Council approved the 2025 interim municipal budget outlining a proposed 2.97 per cent increase in the County tax rate over the 2024 final budget.

"Our 2025 interim budget is one that Council is proud to stand behind," says Leduc County Mayor Tanni Doblanko. "This budget not only allows for continued investment and ease of investment, but it's one that won't have a significant impact on the average person, which is something very important to our Council. We've committed to funding several projects and initiatives in 2025, such as continued investment in our road infrastructure, a utilities master plan and support to our community halls and libraries through cost-sharing, grants and recreation programs."

The County's 2025 interim budget also outlines priority projects for the coming year to help achieve their **strategic pillars**:

- ▶ Glen Park Road rehabilitation, between Range Road 263, Highway 795 and Highways 778 and 39, at an investment of \$9.9 million.
- ▶ Conduct a comprehensive needs assessment for future fire service delivery based on anticipated development in East Vistas.
- ▶ Host a public education campaign on the Urban Standards Bylaw with a compliance focus of bylaw regulations pertaining to the summer maintenance of developed and undeveloped lots in residential areas.

The interim budget totals just more than **\$125 million**, including:

- ▶ **\$102,618,834** operating budget including \$28.9 million in provincial requisitions collected on behalf of the Government of Alberta and the Leduc Regional Housing Foundation
- ▶ **\$22,583,954** capital expenditures to cover infrastructure costs for roads, bridges, buildings and equipment

Key multi-year, priority projects include:

- ▶ Enterprise resource planning software replacement, which began in 2024 (\$943,500), with \$2.5 million in 2025 and \$502,500 in 2026
- ▶ Leduc County Growth Strategy, which began in 2024 (\$30,000), with \$140,000 in 2025 and \$200,000 in 2026
- ▶ Utility Master Plan with \$25,000 in 2025 and \$275,000 in 2026

This interim budget outlines how municipal dollars will be used in 2025 and allows priority projects to proceed or continue until the final budget is approved in the spring.

2025 interim budget highlights

- ▶ More than \$20 million for road projects and maintenance
- ▶ \$3 million for bridge projects
- ▶ \$2.25 million in cost-share recreation support to five partner municipalities
- ▶ \$422,000 for support to not-for-profit facilities and community recreation and cultural grants
- ▶ \$283,290 to support libraries
- ▶ \$1.3 million for public transit

Snow removal



Keeping snow off roads and out of culverts

When clearing your driveway this winter, do not push snow onto County roads. Pushing snow onto roads creates traffic hazards and drainage issues. Drainage issues are also created when snow is pushed into culverts and ditches; the snow becomes packed down and freezes, which can result in flooding in the spring. Thank you for your cooperation this winter.

With the winter season upon us, Leduc County would like to remind everyone to be mindful of weather and road conditions.

Throughout the winter, we monitor and inspect roadways before and after each snowfall; the severity of the snowfall or ice conditions dictates the timing of snow and ice removal. We prioritize paved and gravel roadways before clearing subdivisions and driveways.

We use different equipment for paved and gravel roads, which allows us to clear both at the same time. It's important to note that in periods of continual or

drifting snow, we may clear main roads more than once before we can attend to country residential subdivisions, local residential and commercial roads and driveways.

The County is not responsible for clearing private sidewalks. If you have a concern about snow on a private sidewalk, call **780-955-5005**.

Learn more about snow removal and read the snow removal policy at leduc-county.com/winter-operations.

Monthly County Chronicle



Beginning in the new year, you will receive the Chronicle every **month**! The updated newsletter will be packaged in a new format sharing key information on topics you told us are important to you, as per the 2023 Citizen Satisfaction Survey results. Watch your mailboxes for our new monthly format!

Winter tips for waste cart placement

- ▶ Clear snow and ice to place your cart, either at the end of your property or along the curb
- ▶ Ensure carts are not frozen into any ice or snow, the placement is level and unobstructed by snow accumulation
- ▶ Follow the one-metre clearance on each side of a cart to make it accessible for waste collection operators

For more information, contact Leduc County Utilities at **780-770-9040** or **LCUtilities@leduc-county.com**

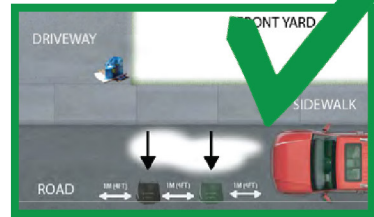
OPTION 1



OPTION 2



OPTION 3



OPTION 4



2024

LEDUC COUNTY 2024* YEAR IN REVIEW



2,503 km²



FIVE
MUNICIPAL **RECREATION**
COST-SHARE AGREEMENTS

106 INTERNAL COUNCIL AND
COMMITTEE MEETINGS

POPULATION



14,416

\$9.86 BILLION
TOTAL TAXABLE
ASSESSMENT



IN ADDITION TO REGULAR PATROLS,
ENFORCEMENT SERVICES



INVESTIGATED **847** FILES
ISSUED **362** CHARGES
ISSUED **162** WARNINGS

COUNCILLORS SIT ON

10 INTERNAL BOARDS/COMMITTEES

24 EXTERNAL BOARDS/COMMITTEES



6%

VACANCY RATE IN THE
NISKU BUSINESS PARK

MORE THAN
50 TYPES OF AGRICULTURAL
PRODUCTS, RANGING FROM
CEREALS AND DAIRY TO BEEF
AND **LIVESTOCK**



TRANSFER STATIONS

WERE ACCESSED **57,724** TIMES
COLLECTED **199** TONNES OF RECYCLING
COLLECTED **3,818** TONNES OF WASTE



368 DEVELOPMENT PERMITS ISSUED
2,041 SAFETY CODES PERMITS ISSUED
\$146,525,837 CONSTRUCTION VALUE



889 FIRE/RESCUE CALLS

 OWNED AND OPERATED BY LEDUC COUNTY
 PROVIDE FUNDING TO

 **451** IN NISKU DISTRICT
 **113** IN NEW SAREPTA DISTRICT
 **123** IN CALMAR DISTRICT
 **103** IN THORSBY DISTRICT
 **75** IN WARBURG DISTRICT
 **24** IN MILLET DISTRICT

\$4,630,100
ON NISKU/RURAL
ROAD RESURFACING



\$1,591,800
ON BRIDGE
REHABILITATION
AND REPAIRS



RECREATION PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

HOSTED **49** DROP-IN PROGRAMS AND **438**
REGISTERED PROGRAMS WITH **1,038** PARTICIPANTS
AND **11** COMMUNITY EVENTS WITH **2,620**
PARTICIPANTS

SUBSIDIZED **148**
COUNSELLING
SESSIONS FOR
25 HOUSEHOLDS



601
PEOPLE

SERVED BY
FAMILY AND
COMMUNITY
SUPPORT
SERVICES (FCSS)



LEDUC-COUNTY.COM

139,012 USERS | 391,671 PAGE VIEWS



FAMILY RESOURCE NETWORK (FRN)

PROVIDED **915** IN-HOME VISITS AND SUPPORTED **226**
FAMILY MEMBERS

**data shown current up to Oct. 31, 2024*

Central Nisku Local Area Redevelopment Plan — share your thoughts

Leduc County is re-envisioning the central Nisku area, with the help of Arcadis | IBI Group, by creating the Central Nisku Local Area Redevelopment Plan (Central Nisku Plan). An area redevelopment plan is a planning policy document used to guide the long-term redevelopment of an existing area. It provides guidance on future land use and includes implementation steps to achieve the vision of the ARP.



The plan has been on hold since 2022 to allow for the preparation of servicing studies and is now being re-initiated. The plan is scheduled to be completed in early 2025.

The Central Nisku Plan will outline a strategy to grow and diversify the central Nisku area. Central Nisku is envisioned as a key part of the iconic Nisku Business Park, and will feature a range of industrial, manufacturing and commercial uses to serve the Edmonton Metropolitan Region, Alberta and the world.

An open house was held earlier this month with information posted on the project page found on yoursayleducounty.com.

If you wish to share your input, please participate in our online survey at yoursayleducounty.com/survey-cnlarp.

This survey closes Dec. 31, 2024.

Have you heard?



We post important project information and updates to yoursayleducounty.com/shaping-your-county about the Land Use Bylaw update. Please watch for upcoming public engagement opportunities in the New Year for the next phase of this bylaw update.



2025 election

Voter information

The next municipal election will take place on **Oct. 20, 2025**. More information, such as voting station locations and advance voting dates will be shared in the coming months at leduc-county.com/election.

Candidate information

You can become a candidate if the following apply to you:

- ▶ You are 18 years of age on nomination day.
- ▶ You are a Canadian citizen.
- ▶ You are a resident of Leduc County for six consecutive months immediately before nomination day.
- ▶ You are a Leduc County resident on election day.

For specific eligibility and ineligibility descriptions for candidates, refer to sections 21 and 22 of the *Local Authorities Election Act*.

Steps to follow to become a candidate

If you meet the eligibility requirements and would like to become a candidate, take the following steps:

1. File a notice of intent

- ▶ A notice of intent is a new process for the 2025 municipal election. Candidates who plan to run in the 2025 election can only accept campaign contributions and incur campaign expenses once their notice of intent is filed with Leduc County.
- ▶ Once you file a notice of intent, you will be added to a register of candidates, which will appear on the Leduc County website. Please note, filing a notice of intent does not mean your name will appear on a ballot. For your name to appear on a ballot, you must complete the nomination process during the nomination period, as indicated below.
- ▶ For more information on a notice of intent, refer to section 147.22 (1) of the *Local Authorities Election Act*.

2. Complete the nomination process

- ▶ Candidate nominations are accepted from **Jan. 1 to Sept. 22, 2025**; candidates must file their nomination forms and the required \$100 deposit by Sept. 22 at noon.
- ▶ Starting **Jan. 2, 2025**, candidates can call Leduc County's returning officer, Lisa Brown, at 780-770-9259 to arrange for a meeting to submit nomination forms. Candidates can also submit nomination forms on nomination day (Sept. 22, 2025) between 10 a.m. and noon at the following address:

Leduc County Centre
Council Chamber
1101 5 St.
Nisku, AB

Learn more and access election forms at leduc-county.com/election.

FCSS and FRN winter programs

Connecting our community through events, programs and workshops is an important part of enhancing the well-being of individuals and families throughout the County.

Our Family Resource Network (FRN) offers weekly drop-in sessions in Thorsby and Devon and hosts a variety of family-focused activities as well.

Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) has a number of events throughout the year offering a variety of topics for our community members. We have a number of programs scheduled for this winter, including the below-listed programs taking place in January and February.

To register for one of our upcoming programs and learn about future events, please visit our events calendar at <https://calendar.leduc-county.com>.

Holiday money hangover

- **Date:** Tuesday, Jan. 14
- **Time:** noon to 1 p.m.
- **Location:** online via Zoom

Managing menopause

- **Date:** Wednesday, Feb. 5
- **Time:** 6 to 8 p.m.
- **Location:** Warburg Nurse Practitioner-Led Clinic (5212 50 Ave., Warburg)

Managing menopause

- **Date:** Thursday, Feb. 20
- **Time:** 6 to 8 p.m.
- **Location:** online via Zoom



Made in Leduc County cookbook — 2nd edition



Made in Leduc County cookbook 2nd edition

We launched the second edition of our community cookbook last month featuring local favourites and diverse cultural influences. This edition includes fun stories and memories attached to the recipes. Reading them helps create connections in how we share a common love and appreciation for all things sweet and savory. This cookbook, as well as the 2023 edition, is available online to view and download on yoursayleduccounty.com/made-in-leduc-county.

For anyone wishing to have a hard copy, please visit County Centre at 101-1101 5 St, Nisku, AB.



Give back. Get paid. **Make a difference.**

BECOME A PAID ON-CALL FIREFIGHTER IN CALMAR, THORSBY OR WARBURG

We need paid on-call firefighters in the Calmar, Thorsby and Warburg fire districts! Give back to the community, get professional-level training and get paid.

Eligibility

- ▶ You must meet the below requirements:
- ▶ live and/or work within 19 kilometres of Calmar, Thorsby or Warburg
- ▶ be at least 18 years of age
- ▶ have a valid driver's licence and your own transportation
- ▶ provide a clean criminal record check (vulnerable sector)
- ▶ provide a driver's abstract with seven or less demerits
- ▶ meet the physical agility requirements
- ▶ be able to attend training sessions one evening per week
- ▶ Shift workers are welcome to apply, if they meet the above requirements.

Compensation

- ▶ Paid on-call firefighters are compensated on an hourly basis for responding to emergency calls and attending weekly training/maintenance nights. They get at least two hours pay for each emergency call and at least three hours pay for each training/maintenance night.

Learn more and apply by Dec. 31, 2024
at leduc-county.com/recruitment



Holiday hours

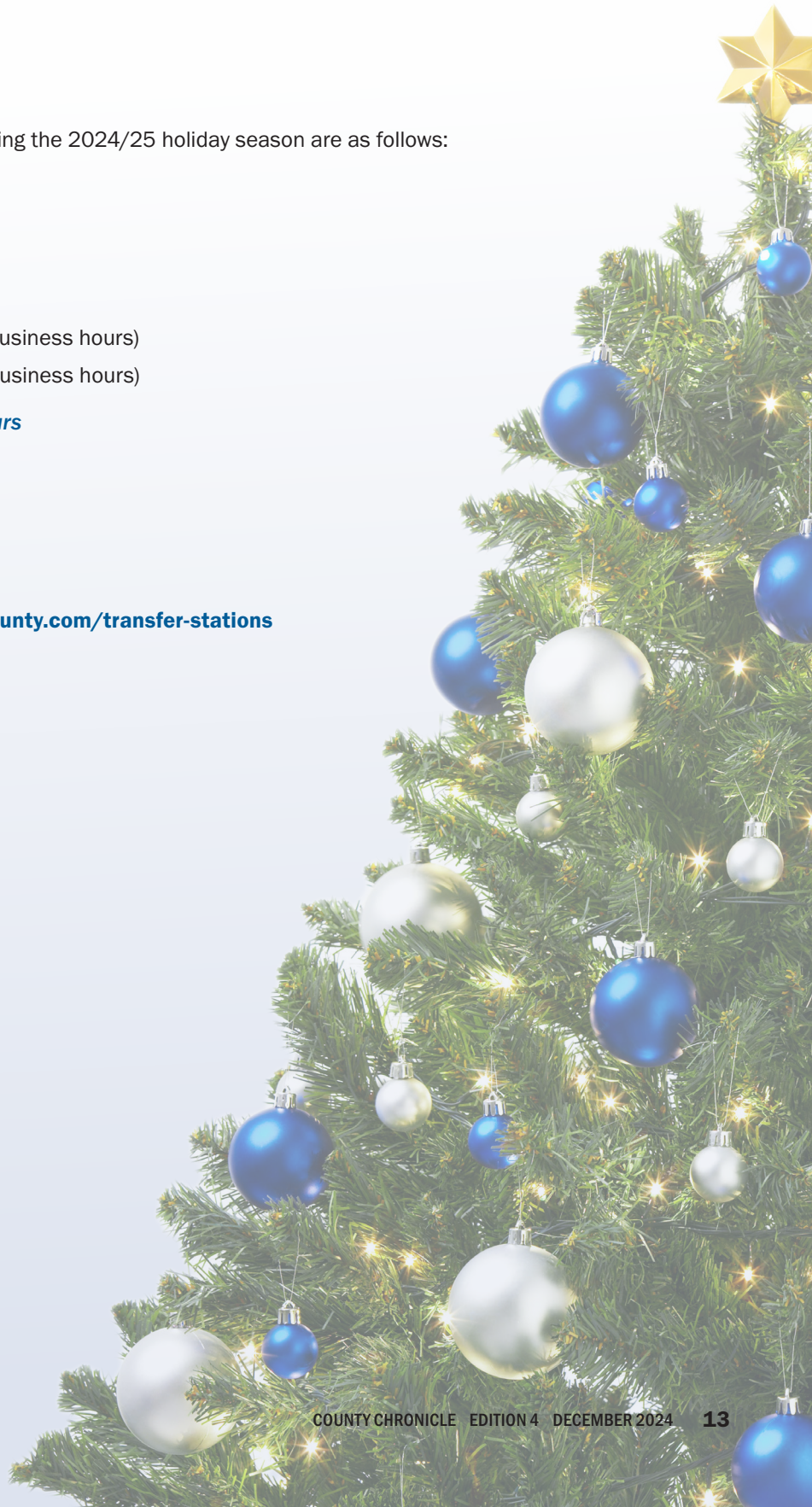
Leduc County's operating hours during the 2024/25 holiday season are as follows:

- ▶ Dec. 24 — open until 3 p.m.
- ▶ Dec. 25, 26 and 27 — closed
- ▶ Dec. 31 — open until 3 p.m.
- ▶ Jan. 1, 2025 — closed
- ▶ Jan. 2, 2025 — open (regular business hours)
- ▶ Jan. 3, 2025 — open (regular business hours)

Waste transfer stations holiday hours

- ▶ Dec. 25 — closed
- ▶ Dec. 26 — open
- ▶ Jan. 1, 2025 — closed
- ▶ Jan. 2, 2025 — open

For more information, visit leduc-county.com/transfer-stations



Coming soon

Seasonal employment opportunities

Beginning in February 2025 details will be available at
leduccounty.startdate.ca

Ag Matters

A digital newsletter for our farming and rural community

Sign up today at leduc-county.com/subscribe

Upcoming Council and committee meetings

- ▶ **Agricultural Service Board** — Jan. 13, 2025 from 10 a.m. to noon
- ▶ **Public Works Committee** — Jan. 13, 2025 from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.
- ▶ **Council Workshop** — Jan. 14, 2025 from 10 a.m. to noon
- ▶ **Council meeting** — Jan. 14, 2025 from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.
- ▶ **Subdivision Authority** — Jan. 21, 2025 from 1:30 to 4 p.m.
- ▶ **Council Workshop** — Jan. 28, 2025 from 10 a.m. to noon
- ▶ **Council meeting** — Jan. 28, 2025 from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.



Aging well in Leduc County workbook

Leduc County believes rural residents should have the resources to age in place and aims to support older adults access services and live safely and independently for as long as possible. The aging well toolkit aims to help older adults and seniors find resources and create a plan to help ensure supports and services are available and accessible when needed.

As part of the toolkit, we are pleased to introduce the *Aging well in Leduc County workbook* that guides

our older and aging population through a series of sections, questions and statements to think about.

Take a look and share it with the people in your life that may need that extra information to help them through the planning process.

leduc-county.com/aging-well-toolkit

CONTACT US


101-1101 5 St., Nisku, AB T9E 2X3


phone: 780-955-3555 **fax:** 780-955-3444


leduc-county.com

leduccountybusiness.com

yoursayleduccounty.com

 **leduccounty**

 **@leduccounty**

 **Leduc County**

If you no longer want to receive a printed copy of the County Chronicle newsletter, email us at communications@leduc-county.com. Digital editions are available on our website.

DEPARTMENT CONTACT INFORMATION

Agricultural Services

780-955-4593

Assessment and Land Management Services

780-955-6412

Corporate Services

780-770-9166

County Manager's Office

780-979-2389

Enforcement Services

780-955-5005

Engineering

780-979-6185

FCSS

780-979-2385

Finance

780-955-3555

Fire Services

780-955-7099

Parks and Recreation

780-955-6410

Planning and Development

780-979-2113

Road Operations

780-979-6185

Utilities

780-770-9040

After-hours road or water emergencies

780-955-7226

COUNCIL CONTACT INFORMATION

Division 1

Rick Smith

780-920-0671

Division 2

Kelly-Lynn Lewis

780-920-0672

Division 3

Dal Virdi

780-920-0673

Division 4

Larry Wanchuk

780-920-0674

Division 5

Mayor Tanni Doblanko

780-920-0675

Division 6

Glenn Belozar

780-920-0676

Division 7

Ray Scobie

780-920-0677

PUBLICATION MAIL AGREEMENT NO. 40858010
Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to:
Leduc County, 101-1101 5 St., Nisku, AB T9E 2X3