

# COUNTY CHRONICLE

EDITION 1 | MARCH 2024



## Reserve your campsite today!

Camping season is almost here, and Leduc County is ready for it! Jubilee Park Campground and our two group campgrounds — Genesee Park Group Campground and Sunnybrook Creek Park Group Campground — open for the season on Friday, May 17.

### Reservations

#### ► Genesee Park Group Campground and Sunnybrook Creek Park Group Campground

Online reservations are now available for Genesee Park Group Campground and Sunnybrook Creek Park Group Campground. Learn more and book a campground today at [leduc-county.com/campgrounds](https://leduc-county.com/campgrounds).

#### ► Jubilee Park Campground

Online reservations open on Tuesday, **March 19**. Preview, book, and pay for your campsites online at [leduc-county.com/jubilee-campground](https://leduc-county.com/jubilee-campground).

For more information, call Leduc County Parks and Recreation at **780-955-6410** or visit [leduc-county.com/campgrounds](https://leduc-county.com/campgrounds).



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# Message from Council

## Planning ahead for a potentially dry spring season

On Feb. 20, the province declared an early start date to wildfire season — 10 days earlier than usual — in anticipation of another dry spring and summer. According to an Alberta Government news release, the province is experiencing warmer than normal temperatures and below average precipitation in many areas, leading to heightened wildfire risk.

In 2023, Leduc County experienced a historic wildfire impact, with our Fire Services department responding to 68 wildfires across the County. Three of those fires resulted in evacuation orders for some of our residents.

Like the province, Leduc County is preparing for another impactful wildfire season. In 2024, Leduc County has implemented the following additional measures to support its wildfire fighting efforts:

- ▶ Additional emergency management training has been rolled out to Leduc County employees.
- ▶ Additional firefighting equipment has been purchased, including portable pumps, wildland hoses, sprinkler systems and other forestry-related small equipment.
- ▶ Firefighter wildland training and basic wildland skills training is being rolled out to other County department employees, including Road Operations staff, to provide support to the Fire Services department during wildfire season.

The cost of fighting wildfires can be expensive — up to hundreds of thousands of dollars in some cases. According to our Fire Services bylaw, any costs incurred by Leduc County Fire Services may be charged back to the person who caused the incident. If a fire ban, restriction or advisory is in effect, please follow the rules as they are in place to protect people, the environment, infrastructure and will help reduce the number of wildfires in our region.

More details on fire permits, fire bans, restrictions and advisories is available on page 9.

Learn more about Fire Services at [leduc-county.com/fire](https://leduc-county.com/fire).



# Nisku District South Fire Station now open!

Leduc County celebrated a major milestone in January with the opening of its first 24/7 full-time fire station! The Nisku District South Fire Station, which was under construction from May to December 2023, became operational in January 2024 and a grand opening event is scheduled to take place on March 22.

The station is home to four teams of full-time fire crews, including 12 firefighters, four shift captains and four platoon chiefs. In April, Alberta Health Services will lease space at the station for a brand new ambulance, which will provide improved emergency services to the region.

In 2021, Leduc County investigated the option of providing a 24/7 fire service to the Nisku region – including airport property – through direct oversight rather than a contracted service. During the 2023 interim budget process, this option was approved.

The Nisku District South Fire Station serves groundside services at YEG – as opposed to airside services, which are provided directly by YEG – the Queen Elizabeth II Highway, surrounding residential areas and the Nisku Business Park. It is located off Airport Road and Airport Perimeter Road.

Learn more about Leduc County Fire Services at [leduc-county.com/fire](https://leduc-county.com/fire).



Leduc County Nisku District South Fire Station firefighters shown pushing a fire truck into the new station, signifying its occupancy.



# Urban Standards Bylaw

The Urban Standards Bylaw establishes standards and expectations for property owners in Leduc County urban areas, including East Vistas and New Sarepta, and aims to regulate unsightly premises to promote safe, enjoyable and reasonable use of properties within the County.

The bylaw addresses nuisance properties, upkeep of undeveloped lands, abandoned buildings, water, eavestroughs and downspouts, outdoor lighting, construction sites, sidewalks and includes a seasonal recreational vehicle storage and parking ban. Please note, it is the responsibility of the owner or occupant of a property to ensure that adjacent sidewalks be cleared of all snow and ice. If an owner fails to comply, the County may arrange to have the land cleaned, or snow and ice removed at the owner's expense.

Leduc County would like to remind all landowners of undeveloped, bare or vacant land of the following:

- ▶ Land must be cleaned at least once in the month of June and again in the month of August each year and includes, but is not limited to, cutting vegetation, and removing all garbage, refuse, litter or similar debris.
- ▶ Lands may be inspected on or after July 1 and Sept. 1 annually to determine compliance.
- ▶ Failure to adhere to the Urban Standards Bylaw can result in fines starting at \$250, in addition to being responsible for the cost of cleanup and compliance.

To read the bylaw and learn more, visit [leduc-county.com/bylaws](https://leduc-county.com/bylaws) or contact Enforcement Services at **780-955-5005**.





# Animal control resources

We're committed to keeping our residents and animals safe and ensuring peaceful enjoyment within our community. One of the ways we do this is by offering a variety of animal control and care resources.

## Dog control

When dogs are found in Leduc County, we try to reunite them with their owners. We typically hold dogs for up to 10 days and, if unclaimed, they are re-homed through a non-profit animal rescue organization. To claim a found dog, call **780-955-5005**. Please note you may be asked for information to help verify ownership.

Dog owners are responsible for their pets' actions and could face penalties for not following regulations.



### *Help keep your dog safe by:*

- ▶ Ensuring it is on a leash and not running at large when off your property.
- ▶ Removing dog waste from any property including accumulation of waste in your own yard.
- ▶ Preventing it from barking and chasing livestock, bicycles and people.
- ▶ Ensuring it doesn't cause damage to property or other animals.

### *Dogs at large*

If you see a dog at large in Leduc County, please report it to Enforcement Services at **780-955-5005**.

## Cat control

Although Leduc County doesn't have a cat control bylaw, the Edmonton Humane Society (EHS) may assist with sick or injured strays and feral cats depending on their capacity throughout the year.

Stray cats may have once been indoors and are accustomed to people, while feral cats have had minimal contact with people; however, both are homeless.

If you find an injured, limping, wounded or underweight stray cat, you may contact the EHS at **780-491-3522** for more information and options.

If you find a feral cat, visit EHS's website to learn about their Trap, Neuter and Return program.

## Spaying or neutering your pets

Spaying or neutering your cats and dogs is the most effective way to reduce the community's homeless pet population. Low-income residents can apply to have their dogs and/or cats spayed or neutered through the Prevent Another Litter Subsidy – PALS Program – offered by the EHS. To learn more, visit the Edmonton Humane Society website at [edmontonhumane.com](http://edmontonhumane.com).

## Animals in distress

For animals in distress, contact the Alberta Society for the Prevention of Cruelty of Animals (SPCA) at **1-800-455-9003**.

## Livestock control

Livestock Identification Services Ltd. is a not-for-profit and legislated organization responsible for providing livestock inspection services, maintaining a brand registry and administering the licensing of all livestock dealers in Alberta, which helps protect livestock owners from strayed or stolen animals.

Contact **1-866-509-2088** if you see any livestock outside of their compounds, including on public roadways.

# Join Leduc County FCSS for an upcoming program or workshop

Leduc County Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) has a number of upcoming programs and workshops this spring.

To register for any of the below-listed events, please call **780-979-2385** or **1-888-301-FCSS**.

## Learn to file your taxes

Do you want to learn how to prepare and file your own simple income tax return? This free information session will help you gain the confidence and skills needed to complete your 2023 income tax return. During this in-person session, you will learn about the necessary paperwork required to complete your taxes, information on the My CRA Account and complete a walk through of the free TurboTax online tax filing software.

- **Date:** Wednesday, March 20
- **Time:** 6 to 7 p.m.
- **Location:** Calmar Library (4705 50 Ave., Calmar)

## We need your input! Aging well in Leduc County toolkit

### Three separate opportunities to participate

Are you prepared for your future as you age? Are you aware of all the areas in your life that should be considered in making plans for your future – from

navigating safety in your home and community to financial wellness?

Leduc County is creating an Aging Well Toolkit specifically designed for County residents, and we need input from residents who are:

- Adults or seniors looking to plan for their long-term future.
- Adult or senior caregivers to another older adult or senior.
- Seniors who may be facing an upcoming life transition.
- Anyone else who would like to share their insights.

### Session one

- **Date:** Monday, March 18
- **Time:** 1 to 2:30 p.m.
- **Location:** Thorsby Family Resource Network (FRN) facility (4908 48 Street, Thorsby, in the modular building across from the Arctic Spas Recreation Complex)

### Session two

- **Date:** Tuesday, March 26
- **Time:** 10 to 11:30 a.m.
- **Location:** County Centre; room 241 (1101 5 Street, Nisku)

### Session three

- **Date:** Thursday, March 28
- **Time:** 5 to 6:30 p.m.
- **Location:** online via Zoom

## Walking with grief

### A free, five-week supportive space

Have you experienced the loss of a loved one? This in-person grief support group helps you to learn about the nature of the grief process, emotions and healing. You will learn to build a community with individuals experiencing similar challenges, gain practical strategies for navigating grief and emerge with a clearer direction for moving forward.

- **Dates:** Tuesdays, April 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30
- **Time:** 10 to 11:30 a.m.
- **Location:** Calmar Program Centre (4815 49 Street, Calmar)

## Children in change

Children in change is designed for children in grades three to five who have experienced parental separation or divorce. The session will provide an opportunity for children to interact with peers who have had similar challenges, share their thoughts and feelings in a safe environment and learn strategies for coping with change.

- **Date:** Saturday, April 6
- **Time:** 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
- **Location:** Thorsby Family Resource Network (FRN) facility (4908 48 Street, Thorsby, in the modular building across from the Arctic Spas Recreation Complex)

# 2023

## LEDUC COUNTY 2023 YEAR IN REVIEW



2,503 km<sup>2</sup>



**FIVE**  
MUNICIPAL RECREATION  
COST-SHARE AGREEMENTS

**118** INTERNAL COUNCIL AND  
COMMITTEE MEETINGS

### COUNCILLORS SIT ON

**10** INTERNAL BOARDS/COMMITTEES

**24** EXTERNAL BOARDS/COMMITTEES

### POPULATION



**14,416**

**\$9.22 BILLION**  
TOTAL TAXABLE  
ASSESSMENT



IN ADDITION TO REGULAR PATROLS,  
**ENFORCEMENT SERVICES**



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



**6%** VACANCY RATE IN THE  
**NISKU BUSINESS PARK**

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



**977**  
FARMS

### TRANSFER STATIONS

WERE ACCESSED **56,389** TIMES  
COLLECTED **280** TONNES OF RECYCLING  
COLLECTED **4,871** TONNES OF WASTE










**344** DEVELOPMENT PERMITS ISSUED  
**1,938** SAFETY CODES PERMITS ISSUED  
**\$167,910,715** CONSTRUCTION VALUE



**1,256** FIRE/RESCUE CALLS

 OWNED AND OPERATED BY LEDUC COUNTY  
 PROVIDE FUNDING TO

 **464** IN NISKU DISTRICT  
 **107** IN NEW SAREPTA DISTRICT  
 **121** IN CALMAR DISTRICT  
 **131** IN THORSBY DISTRICT  
 **90** IN WARBURG DISTRICT  
 **21** IN MILLET DISTRICT  
 **550** IN LEDUC DISTRICT

**\$8,051,700**  
ON NISKU/RURAL  
ROAD RESURFACING



**\$685,342**  
ON BRIDGE  
REHABILITATION  
AND REPAIRS



### RECREATION PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

HOSTED **43** DROP-IN PROGRAMS AND **SIX**  
SUMMER CAMPS WITH **732** PARTICIPANTS AND  
**16** COMMUNITY EVENTS WITH **3,375** PARTICIPANTS

SUBSIDIZED **161**  
COUNSELLING  
SESSIONS FOR  
**33** INDIVIDUALS  
AND **ONE** FAMILY



  
**2,288**  
**PEOPLE**

SERVED BY  
FAMILY AND  
COMMUNITY  
SUPPORT  
SERVICES (FCSS)



**98,885 TONNES** OF GRAVEL USED  
FOR THE GRAVELLING PROGRAM



**FAMILY RESOURCE NETWORK**  
PROVIDED **965** IN-HOME  
VISITS AND SUPPORTED **255**  
FAMILY MEMBERS

### LEDUC-COUNTY.COM

**135,411** USERS  
**379,564** PAGE VIEWS





# Beginning March 1, fire permits required for open burning

**Are you planning an open burn this spring? Make sure you get a free fire permit first!**

Each open burn conducted between March 1 and Oct. 31 requires a fire permit. These are currently\* provided at no cost from fire guardians throughout the County; a list of fire guardians is available at [leduc-county.com/fire-permits](https://leduc-county.com/fire-permits) or by calling **780-955-7099**.

Business representatives who wish to have an open fire in the Nisku Business Park must also have a fire permit. Permits are required year-round in Nisku, and you can apply for a fire permit online at [lcfs.burnpermits.com](https://lcfs.burnpermits.com).

*\*We will be launching an online fire permit process for the public later in 2024. More information will be shared at [leduc-county.com](https://leduc-county.com) once online permits are available.*

## Open burning

Open burning is allowed in the County, but not in the following areas:

- ▶ hamlets (Buford, Kavanagh, Looma, Rolly View, Sunnybrook and New Sarepta)
- ▶ localities (Glen Park, Michigan Center, St. Francis and Telfordville)
- ▶ subdivisions



## What you can and can't burn

Fire permit holders **are allowed** to burn the following materials:

- ▶ paper products
- ▶ yard waste (weeds, leaves, tree clippings, brush, fallen trees, etc.)
- ▶ wood or wood products that don't contain preservatives

You **can't burn** the following materials, even with a fire permit:

- ▶ animal manure
- ▶ pathological waste
- ▶ wood or wood products that contain preservatives
- ▶ rubber, including tires
- ▶ plastic, including baler twine
- ▶ oil
- ▶ containers that held pesticides or chemicals
- ▶ waste material from construction sites

## Contained burning

You do not need a fire permit for contained fires in an approved fire pit or burn barrel. View the specifications for fire pits and burn barrels at [leduc-county.com/fire-permits](https://leduc-county.com/fire-permits).

## Fire bans, restrictions and advisories

Individuals conducting open and/or contained burning must follow all fire restrictions and bans issued for Leduc County, which are posted to [leduc-county.com](http://leduc-county.com) and [albertafirebans.ca](http://albertafirebans.ca).

We issue fire advisories, restrictions and bans to protect life and property when there is a high risk of fire based on a variety of factors, including weather conditions, feedback from residents and fire conditions throughout the region and province.

The below gives a general idea of the requirements for an advisory, restriction and ban; however, additional measures may be implemented when needed. For more information, visit [leduc-county.com/fire-bans](http://leduc-county.com/fire-bans).

### Fire advisory

- ▶ Certain restrictions may be placed on burning. A fire advisory indicates that a fire restriction or ban may be issued.

### Fire restriction

- ▶ No open fires, smudge fires or fires contained to burn barrels are allowed, and any of these fires burning when the restriction is issued must be extinguished immediately. The discharge of fireworks is not allowed.

- ▶ All fire permits are suspended, as per the *Forest and Prairie Protection Act*, and no new fire permits will be issued.

- ▶ You can have a recreational fire (firepit) fueled by dry wood, a campfire at a campsite, use gas/propane appliances such as barbecues, heaters and firepits, and use solid-fuel (charcoal or pellets) appliances.

### Fire bans

- ▶ No outdoor fires are allowed, including open fires, smudge fires, campfires, recreational fires (firepits) or fires contained to burn barrels. Fires burning when the ban is issued must be extinguished immediately. The discharge of fireworks is not allowed.

- ▶ All fire permits are suspended, as per the *Forest and Prairie Protection Act*, and no new fire permits will be issued.

- ▶ You can use gas/propane appliances such as barbecues, heaters and firepits, and use solid-fuel (charcoal or pellets) appliances.

If you don't comply with advisories, restrictions or bans, you could receive a fine.

## Large farming equipment on roads

Leduc County is an agricultural community and during spring, summer and fall, farmers are cultivating, seeding and spraying their cropland.

As a commuter on the roads within Leduc County, you'll start seeing large farming equipment on gravel roads and secondary highways. Please understand

farmers are working quickly to get from field-to-field; however, this large equipment is slow to move and difficult to maneuver. Please be aware this equipment must swing wide to make turns and has large blind spot areas, so be patient and give our farmers the space they need.



# Need to talk? We can help.

## **Leduc County Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) offers free counselling sessions to those who qualify.**

The cost of counselling can be a barrier for many individuals and families. Leduc County FCSS offers access to free counselling sessions to eligible individuals, couples and/or families who are struggling with common, everyday issues.

Counselling services are provided by local counsellors who are either marital or family therapists, psychologists or masters level student interns under professional supervision.

### ***Counselling can help you:***

- ▶ Improve relationships with better communication skills or conflict resolution.
- ▶ Improve mood with anger management and emotional support.
- ▶ Enhance personal growth with creativity, spirituality, self esteem, self awareness and goal setting.
- ▶ Improve parenting skills by focusing on attachment.
- ▶ Reduce stress with life balance.
- ▶ Learn new skills and behaviours.

### ***Eligibility***

To qualify for a counselling subsidy, you must:

- ▶ Be a resident of Leduc County, Calmar, Thorsby or Warburg.
- ▶ Not have access to an employee or health benefit plan that covers the cost of counselling.
- ▶ Have a family income of less than \$75,000 per year.

Once your intake is complete and your subsidy has been approved, you will be referred to a clinic for counselling services.

### ***Sessions and rates***

Each household that is approved for free subsidized counselling may choose from the following session options:

- ▶ Three individual sessions per person
- ▶ Six couple sessions
- ▶ Nine family sessions
- ▶ Seven group sessions per person

For more information and to be assessed for eligibility, call **780-955-6421** or visit [\*\*leduc-county.com/counselling\*\*](https://leduc-county.com/counselling).



# Spring building projects

## Do you need a permit for your spring building project?

Spring is upon us, and the time is right to start planning for outdoor projects. Before you start installing an above-ground swimming pool, a new hot tub or building a deck or shed, you need to make sure you have the right permits in place.

Permits are a way of regulating development to protect people and the community and to make sure County bylaws and health and safety standards are followed. Permits must be obtained before you start work on a project; if you aren't sure whether your project requires a permit or not — please contact us.

Leduc County has a team of certified safety codes officers, electrical, plumbing, gas and private sewage disciplines, as well as qualified permit issuers, who are happy to help and answer any of your questions.

## Why do I need a permit?

*Permits and inspections are required to ensure installations are done to code. Permits are required for four of the most popular spring building projects:*

### ► Hot tubs

Hot tubs involve water and electricity. Permits and inspections are required to be sure the electrical work is done correctly, the installation was done properly, and that the hot tub cover is strong enough to restrict access and support the weight of a child.

### ► Above-ground swimming pools

Above-ground swimming pools deeper than two-feet require a permit and inspection to be sure that access is restricted to children and unwanted visitors.

### ► Decks

Decks higher than two feet above grade require a permit and inspection to be sure they are constructed properly and have hand and guard rails installed to prevent falls.

### ► Garden sheds

Building or installing garden sheds larger than 10 square metres (roughly 10 feet by 10 feet) requires a permit and inspection to ensure safe construction and compliance with municipal bylaws.

## A permit is not required for any of the following:

- construction of an accessory building that is less than 10 square metres (provided there are no health or safety concerns, and the building complies with the Leduc County Land Use Bylaw)
- painting
- decorating
- pouring a sidewalk or driveway
- planters
- construction of a farm-building

*Note: Permits are required for electrical, plumbing, gas or private sewage installations in farm buildings.*



To learn more about development and safety codes permits and inspections, visit [leduc-county.com](https://leduc-county.com) or contact Planning and Development at **780-979-2113** or [safetycodes@leduc-county.com](mailto:safetycodes@leduc-county.com).

# Dust control applications open on April 1

Did you know that if you live beside a gravel road in the County you can apply for a dust control service? The application of dust control materials is used to reduce dust on gravel roads.

## Online application process

Applications for the 2024 season open on April 1; an application form will be available at [leduc-county.com/dust-control](https://leduc-county.com/dust-control).

After your application form is approved and payment is accepted, dust control strips will be applied. Dust control strips are applied after road bans are lifted – usually in late May – and as road conditions allow for it.

Dust control applications are due by May 15.

For more information, contact Road Operations at **780-979-6185** or [pwe@leduc-county.com](mailto:pwe@leduc-county.com).

## 2024 dust control fees

Distance	Calcium chloride	Incorporated petroleum
First 122 metres (400 feet)	\$573.75	\$4,426.25
Beyond 122 metres (400 feet)	\$9.41 per metre	\$40.98 per metre



# Property tax payment options

Property taxes help pay for various services, facilities and projects in and around our community and are the County's most important source of revenue. These tax dollars help pay for many essential services, including:

- ▶ roads and local infrastructure
- ▶ fire services
- ▶ family and community support services
- ▶ agricultural services

## Leduc County Council sets tax rates each spring and notices are mailed to all ratepayers shortly after.

Property taxes are due by **June 30, 2024**, and can be paid in the following ways:

- ▶ Telephone or online banking, which may take up to three business days.
- ▶ Mail via a cheque, money order or bank draft in an envelope postmarked no later than **June 30**.
- ▶ In-person at County Centre with debit, cheque, money order or bank draft during office hours (Mon. — Fri., 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.). *Please note the last day for in-person payments at County Centre is **Friday, June 28, 2024**.*
- ▶ After-hours by depositing cheques, money orders or bank drafts in the mail slot at the north entrance of County Centre.

Credit card payments are not accepted.

Payments can be made in person or mailed to the following address:

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

If you have questions or concerns about paying your property taxes, visit [leduc-county.com/taxes](https://www.leduc-county.com/taxes) or contact our Finance department at **780-955-3555**.

## Sign up for TIPP program

Leduc County offers eligible property owners the Tax Instalment Payment Plan (TIPP) as a convenient way of paying property taxes in 12 monthly instalments automatically withdrawn from your bank account. There is no cost to enroll; however, before enrolling, make sure you are not paying your property taxes through your mortgage provider.

To qualify for enrolment:

- ▶ All previous and owed taxes on a pro-rated basis must be paid in full.
- ▶ You must have an account at a Canadian bank.

To learn more about the TIPP program and to apply online, visit [www.leduc-county.com](https://www.leduc-county.com).

All water and wastewater utility invoices, including bulk water use, are automatically sent via mail; however, you can sign up for e-billing and receive them via email!

Visit [leduc-county.com/ebilling](https://www.leduc-county.com/ebilling) to sign up or contact us at **780-955-3555** or [finance-utilities@leduc-county.com](mailto:finance-utilities@leduc-county.com) with any questions.



# Municipal Development Plan update

Leduc County has been undertaking an interim review of its Municipal Development Plan (MDP), which was adopted by Council in 2019. The MDP guides future land use and policy decisions in the County for the next 25 to 30 years and aims to support growth and prosperity across all regions of the County by identifying and recognizing its unique assets and opportunities within both the rural and urban areas and builds upon them.

After asking the community for comments toward the proposed MDP revisions through a public participation process and incorporating recently approved legislation such as the Regional Agricultural Master Plan (RAMP), the project team updated the MDP, presented it to Council for a first reading on Feb. 13 and is taking it to public hearing on **April 9, 2024**.

## *Share your input*

Community members can provide written submissions or register to speak at the public hearing. Visit [yoursayleduccounty.com/MDP](https://yoursayleduccounty.com/MDP) to learn more about the project, view the updated draft MDP, submit comments or register to speak. Alternately, you may contact Joyce Gavan, Legislative Coordinator, at **780-770-9259** or [joyceg@leduc-county.com](mailto:joyceg@leduc-county.com) to participate.

The deadline to submit comments or register to speak is **March 28**.



LEDUC COUNTY  
**Planning Our Future**  
Municipal Development Plan Update

# Dog control bylaw updates

Leduc County has updated its Dog Control Bylaw to enhance the safety, health and welfare of the community, and increase the protection of both the people and properties within. The following gives a high-level description of the changes, but a full version of the bylaw can be read at [leduc-county.com/bylaws](https://leduc-county.com/bylaws).

## *Dog identification*

Enforcement Services deals with a number of lost dog cases annually and strives to return them to their owners; therefore, when off the owner's property, a dog must be wearing at least one form of identification that includes the owner's current name and phone number. Forms of identification include securely fastened tags, collars, harnesses or a working pet microchip.

## *Restrictions — number of dogs*

There are now restrictions on how many dogs can be kept on a parcel of land and is as follows:

- ▶ No more than three dogs on a parcel of land that is less than five acres in size.
- ▶ No more than five dogs on a parcel of land that is more than five acres in size.

## *Offences*

### *Control and noise*

The Control and noise section of the bylaw now recognizes trained livestock dogs performing tasks to assist with livestock production.

### *Hygiene*

- ▶ If a dog has defecated on any property other than the owner's, the owner shall remove it immediately.
- ▶ If a female dog is in estrus (also known as "in heat"), the owner must contain or restrain the dog both on and off the owner's property.



## *Aggressive dog*

The County has now improved and defined how it responds, investigates and deems if a dog is aggressive using Dr. Ian Dunbar's Dog Aggression Scale, in efforts to enhance public safety. Refer to page 12 of the bylaw for more information and to review the scale.

## *Diseases*

The County has now improved disease control measures to help reduce the spread of rabies or other communicable diseases. The owner of a dog that has, is believed to have or has been exposed to rabies or other communicable diseases, shall:

- ▶ Not permit the dog to be in any public place.
- ▶ Ensure the dog is not in contact with or in proximity to any other animal.
- ▶ Comply with any restriction or observation period imposed by the County.

## *Costs, fines and penalties*

The fines and penalties section has been updated. Refer to page 11 of the bylaw for a breakdown of the offence and the fine associated with it.

# Spring road conditions: frost boils and frozen culverts

Spring is quickly approaching, which means the annual freeze/thaw cycle is about to begin. When temperatures fluctuate from below-to-above zero, our road network experiences seasonal impacts. Impacts brought about by warming temperatures include frost boils on gravel roads and occasional flooding caused by frozen culverts.

## Frost boils

A frost boil, also known as a frost heave, happens when moisture reaches the base of a road. When temperatures drop below freezing, this moisture freezes and expands, which results in soil pushing up to the road's surface.

Frost boils look like a mound of black dirt and they may appear overnight, and can last for several weeks. To repair them, graders must continually work the area, and in some cases, it is necessary to dig out the affected area to complete the repair.



## Frozen culverts

During the winter, culverts often become blocked with ice, which restricts the flow of ground water and spring runoff.

As temperatures rise and melting begins, problems may arise if culverts are still frozen. Culverts thaw more slowly than surface snow and ice. This delay can create an ice dam, which forces water to flow over roads or approaches or backup onto nearby properties.

Each spring, Leduc County Road Operations staff work to thaw frozen culverts. Staff use steamers to keep spring runoff from flowing onto roads, approaches and nearby properties. Priorities are given to situations where there is potential damage to buildings or roads.

If you spot a frost boil or are experiencing a problem with a frozen culvert, please contact Road Operations at **780-979-6185** or [pwe@leduc-county.com](mailto:pwe@leduc-county.com).





# Land Use Bylaw update



From June 5 to Nov. 30, 2023, residents, business owners, and other stakeholders were welcome to attend five open house events, offer comments to the feedback boards and ask questions to the project team to help inform the next phase of the Land Use Bylaw (LUB) update.

A special thanks to everyone who came out, asked questions and provided thoughtful feedback. We are grateful to our community who want to help shape the future of Leduc County.

With the conclusion of phase two public participation, the project team has been compiling, analyzing and theming the feedback in efforts of refining the bylaw and reaching the project goals. The next phase of engagement will present the updated draft bylaw to the public for comments prior to a public hearing and consideration for adoption later in 2024.

## *What's a land use bylaw?*

Leduc County's Land Use Bylaw is the primary document used to outline development patterns through the County utilizing land use districts and development regulations.

## *Why is it being updated?*

Since the current LUB was adopted in 2008, we need a current and updated bylaw that meets the needs

of the municipality, our residents and the business community. The update and revisions will ensure alignment with current provincial requirements and generally, the long-term direction of the Municipal Development Plan and other plans, policies, regulations and legislation for the next 10 to 15 years.

## *What's happened so far?*

In the first round of public participation, the community helped identify land use and development needs, aspirations, concerns and issues. As a result, new administrative and process sections were developed, and a general vision was created based on key topic areas important to the community.

In phase two, the new administrative and process sections, as well as the general vision were presented to the public to ensure alignment with the community's wants and needs. A what we heard report is being finalized and will be released on the LUB project page in spring 2024.

To learn more and get involved in the LUB update, visit [yoursayeduccounty.com/shaping-your-county](https://yoursayeduccounty.com/shaping-your-county).

# Intersection updates on Glen Park Road

The intersection at Glen Park Road and Highway 2A, which is under Alberta Transportation's jurisdiction, has been updated to improve safety.

## *Highway 2A and Glen Park Road (north/south)*

In October, the lanes at this intersection were reconfigured as follows:

- ▶ The inner two lanes of Highway 2A – both northbound and southbound – have changed from straight through/left turn lanes (where drivers could use the left turn lane to also go straight) to left turn only lanes.
- ▶ The two outside lanes have been updated from right turn only to straight through/right turn lanes.
- ▶ A streetlight has been installed to illuminate the intersection.

## *Highway 2A and Glen Park Road (east/west)*

In October, the following safety improvements were made:

- ▶ The stop bars for the eastbound and westbound stop signs have been repainted and are closer to the intersection.

## Municipal franchise fees



In late February, Leduc County became aware of an issue related to municipal franchise fees and franchise agreements. Public utility distribution companies, such as those that deliver electricity or natural gas services, may have a franchise agreement in place with a municipality that grants them the exclusive right to serve utilities in the municipality. If an agreement is in place, municipal franchise fees are collected by a retailer on behalf of the distributor and then forwarded to the municipality.

Leduc County does not have a franchise agreement in place with any public utility distributor; however, we have learned that a municipal franchise fee is still being collected by some retailers. Upon investigation, we have learned the municipal franchise fee being collected actually corresponds to the allocation of municipal taxes that utility companies pay Leduc County.

We have asked public utility companies within Leduc County to correct this issue and ensure that all charges implemented by the distributor are listed accurately on invoices, such as listing municipal taxes as taxes instead of calling them municipal franchise fees.

# Avoiding coyote conflict

Coyotes are a natural scavenger and predator in Leduc County and play a beneficial role in the food chain by eating mice and other small rodents. As human habitation and activities expand to coyotes' natural habitat, many have made behavioural adaptations and look to inhabited areas for easy food sources. While coyotes will usually avoid human contact, they are smart and will find food if its accessible on your property.

Efforts to remove coyotes from population-dense areas, such as hamlets and acreage subdivisions are problematic; therefore, we need to work together as a community to mitigate and avoid interaction.

## **Do not:**

- ▶ Feed coyotes.
- ▶ Leave garbage out where coyotes and other animals can access it.
- ▶ Leave fallen fruit from trees or bird seed spilled from feeders on the ground.
- ▶ Leave pet food out where it is accessible to coyotes.
- ▶ Leave small dogs unattended or leave cats to roam.
- ▶ Leave unsprayed female dogs unattended.

## **Do:**

- ▶ Close off spaces under decks and outbuildings to eliminate access for shelter.
- ▶ Practice aversive conditioning: if you encounter a coyote, make the experience unpleasant for the animal by waving your arms overhead, shouting in a loud voice, blasting a safety air horn or utilizing motion sensor lights and sprinklers.

For more information on coyotes, call the Alberta Environment and Parks Coyote Information Hotline at **780-644-5744** or Leduc County Agricultural Services at **780-955-4593**.





# Get active with Parks and Recreation

Some of Leduc County's most popular recreation activities are coming back this year, including our County-wide scavenger hunt, sunflower growing contest and try a trail program! We will also be hosting several drop-in and registered programs throughout the spring and summer. A snapshot of upcoming events is available below; full details on each program is available at [leduc-county.com/recreation](https://leduc-county.com/recreation).

## Drop-in programs

- ▶ Spring break hangout at the New Sarepta Agriplex
  - ▶ March 26 and 28 from 10 a.m. to noon and 1 to 3 p.m.
- ▶ Open gym night at the New Sarepta Agriplex
  - ▶ April 9 from 6 to 8 p.m.
- ▶ Family fun sport zone at the New Sarepta Agriplex
  - ▶ April 13 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

## County-wide programs and events

### Scavenger Hunt – April 1 to 30

Do you like clues and challenges? Do you like travelling within Leduc County and visiting new spots? If yes, then you will love the Leduc County Scavenger Hunt! This family-friendly activity is open from April 1 to 30. Access the map and learn more at [leduc-county.com/recreation](https://leduc-county.com/recreation).

### Try a Trail – May 1 to 31

During the month of May, you're encouraged to get outside and Try a Trail! We have eight featured trails in and around Leduc County for you to access. The trails range in length and difficulty and provide a great way to enjoy the outdoors. Trail information, including locations and maps, is available online at [leduc-county.com/recreation](https://leduc-county.com/recreation).

### Sunflower growing contest – May 15 to Sept. 10

Join Leduc County for a summer-long sunflower growing contest! Children will compete against Leduc County's Mayor Doblanko to see who can grow the tallest sunflower. The winner will win a pizza dinner!

Everyone is welcome to participate. Seeds will be available to pick up at the New Sarepta, Calmar, Thorsby and Warburg public libraries beginning on May 15. Learn more at [leduc-county.com/recreation](https://leduc-county.com/recreation).

### National Indigenous People's Day at Rundle's Mission – June 21

Join Leduc County at Rundle's Mission to celebrate National Indigenous People's Day. Participants will learn more about Indigenous cultures and play traditional games and activities.

- ▶ **Date:** Friday, June 21
- ▶ **Time:** 1 to 7 p.m.
- ▶ **Location:** Rundle's Mission (47436 Range Road 15 Lakeshore Drive)



## Registered programs

### *Give it a Go Girl – April 19*

Join Leduc County and the Thorsby Arctic Spas Recreation Complex for Give It a Go Girl – a one-day workshop designed for young women ages 8 to 17.

The workshop will introduce participants to several sports and activities and focus on healthy lifestyle choices and self-esteem.

Registration is required for this event. Learn more and register at [leduc-county.com/recreation](https://leduc-county.com/recreation).

- ▶ **Date:** Friday, April 19
- ▶ **Time:** 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- ▶ **Location:** Thorsby Arctic Spas Recreation Complex (4901 48 Avenue, Thorsby)
- ▶ **Cost:** \$50 (includes Subway lunch)

For more information, call **780-789-3935**.

## Summer camps registration date

Save the date! Summer camp registration opens on Monday, April 15. Summer camps will take place throughout July and August; detailed information on camps will be available in April at [leduc-county.com/recreation](https://leduc-county.com/recreation).

## Save the date! Leduc County Days

Join us as we celebrate the Leduc County community.

- ▶ Thursday, June 13 from 4 to 7 p.m. at Glen Park Hall
- ▶ Tuesday, Aug. 20 from 4 to 7 p.m. at the New Sarepta Agriplex

Learn more at [leduc-county.com/recreation](https://leduc-county.com/recreation).



# BEC — the Business and Entrepreneur Centre

*Connecting you with the tools and resources you need to help your business succeed*

Have you visited the Business and Entrepreneur Centre? Located in the heart of Leduc County, it is a functional space for entrepreneurs, suppliers and service providers alike, offering a variety of services, programming and support to advance our business community. Read on to see some of the exciting opportunities available, such as:

- ▶ **Hosting an event** – rent the social space or workshop for your business needs.
- ▶ **Leasing a space** – a variety of spaces available from working to production. Looking for businesses that want to collaborate and grow with each other.
- ▶ **Visiting or showcasing your products at the pop-up shop** – this can be as short as sampling and sales during a pop-up lunch or longer term to test a market.
- ▶ **Adding your products to the retail incubator** – specifically, the focus is on shelf-stable home goods and food items.

Everyone is welcome to join us at the BEC for the following:

- ▶ **Pop-up lunches** every Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

*\*If you are a food-based business interested in hosting a pop-up lunch, please reach out.*

- ▶ **Culinary and food service business open house** on March 29.

*\*If you are a food-based business, this is for you!*

- ▶ **Internet Service Provider open house** on April 26, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

*\*Come learn about different internet options and talk with various providers about internet options.*

- ▶ **Career Connector event** on May 8 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

*\*A chance to network with other local businesses and listen in on how to attract and retain employees.*

- ▶ **Economic Development Summit** – upcoming this spring

*\*Hear from local businesses and government officials, learn from industry leaders and listen to businesses success stories.*

- ▶ **BizExchange** – a facilitated peer-to-peer mentorship program bringing business owners together monthly for breakfast to support, mentor and share common problems, ideas and strategies.

## *Other events of interest*

- ▶ **Agritourism Leaders network meeting** on April 9 at 10 a.m. at Chartier in Beaumont.

*\*This meeting rotates between agritourism and culinary tourism businesses in the region to increase awareness and connection between operators.*

If you have questions, or want to join in, connect with our team at [ecdev@leduc-county.com](mailto:ecdev@leduc-county.com) or visit [leduccountybusiness.com](http://leduccountybusiness.com) for more information.





# CONTACT US


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

## DEPARTMENT CONTACT INFORMATION

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780-955-4593

### **Assessment 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

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### **Division 4**

#### **Larry Wanchuk**

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### **Division 7**

#### **Ray Scobie**

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### **Division 2**

#### **Kelly-Lynn Lewis**

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### **Division 5**

#### **Mayor Tanni Doblanko**

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#### **Dal Virdi**

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### **Division 6**

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