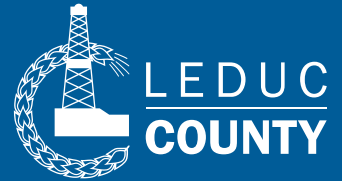


# COUNTY CHRONICLE

EDITION 2 | JUNE 2024



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## 2024 TAX BREAKDOWN

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## Construction season underway

This spring and summer, several road construction projects are taking place throughout Leduc County.

Some of the projects may require detours or cause traffic delays; we thank you for your patience and cooperation as these road projects are completed.

### Township Road 510 realignment (finalizing project that started in 2023)

**Budget:** \$3,616,509

**Timeline:** May 15 to July 15 (weather dependent)

- ▶ In 2023, Township Road 510 was realigned from Range Road 244 north to Range Road 243 north – roughly 1.7 km. The realignment is being done to prepare for a future four-lane roadway.

*Continued on page 2*

*Continued from front page*

- ▶ The project scope also identified the construction of a multi-use path, bridge culvert, drainage improvements and landscaping.
- ▶ The bridge culvert was installed in 2023; however, the multi-use path, landscaping and drainage improvements will be completed in 2024.

### **Range Road 223 from Highway 21 to the New Sarepta hamlet boundary (1.2 km)**

**Budget: \$658,050**

**Timeline: Aug. 1 to 22 (weather dependent)**

- ▶ The purpose of this project is to mill (remove some of the top layer of asphalt to smooth and level the surface) the existing asphalt and replace with a new layer of asphalt. Construction work will include milling the existing surface down by two inches, completing crack and spot repairs and laying down new asphalt.

### **Steinke Estates internal subdivision road (1.52 km)**

**Budget: \$1,052,970**

**Timeline: June 10 to July 26 (weather dependent)**

- ▶ The purpose of this project is to convert the existing cold-mix road into an asphalt surface. Construction work will include subgrade widening (expanding the base layer to accommodate a wider surface) and cement stabilizing (incorporating cement powder into the subgrade to increase its strength) followed by a layer of gravel for the base of the road. Afterwards, the road will be finished with a new asphalt surface.

### **8A Street, Nisku from 7 Street to 8 Street (0.89 km)**

**Budget: \$711,950**

**Timeline: July 29 to Aug. 13 (weather dependent)**

- ▶ The purpose of this project is to upgrade the current asphalt surface. Work will include milling (remove some of the top layer of asphalt to smooth and level the surface) and repairing the existing surface and replacing it with a new layer of asphalt.

### **41 Avenue and Nisku Spine Road: construction of a second left turn lane (northbound)**

**Budget: \$318,370**

**Timeline: June 3 to 25 (weather dependent)**

- ▶ The purpose of this project is to construct a second left-turn lane for northbound traffic at the intersection of 41 Avenue and Nisku Spine Road.

### **Nisku Spine Road from Allard Avenue to 65 Avenue (1.3 km)**

**Budget: \$2 million (50 per cent cost share with the City of Leduc; City of Leduc is managing the project)**

**Timeline: May 15 to Sept. 30 (weather dependent)**

- ▶ The purpose of this project is to construct two lanes of Nisku Spine Road from Allard Avenue to 65 Avenue.

For more information on road projects in Leduc County, visit [leduc-county.com/road-projects](https://leduc-county.com/road-projects)



# Message from Council

On April 23, Council approved the \$101.2-million operating and \$24.4-million capital budgets to support program and service delivery for 2024, and with this budget, we were able to maintain our 2023 tax rates for another year.

As a Council, we are mindful of how important creating a balanced budget is that doesn't put undue stress on our citizens. We know we are using our citizens' hard-earned money to maintain a healthy and thriving community that is set up for future growth and success.

Being able to maintain our competitive tax rates year over year while also providing exceptional service to our citizens is something we are proud of. Providing competitive tax rates is also one of the reasons why we are experiencing growth and development in our industrial sectors.

In 2023, Leduc County experienced a 6.95 per cent increase in overall assessment, which was preceded by a 7.24 per cent increase in 2022. This increase in assessment is one of the reasons why we were able to maintain our 2023 tax rates for 2024.

Maintaining this growth is one of Leduc County's priorities, and we are working hard to continue this upward trend in several ways, such as through infrastructure investments, provincial and federal grant funding opportunities and developing new relationships with businesses through our economic development team.

You can learn more about the 2024 budget on page 4, which includes a breakdown of what your tax dollars are going towards for the next year.



In 2023, Leduc County's total assessment was

**\$9.87 billion**

Source: Leduc County



From 2021 to 2022, Leduc County experienced an almost

**8%**

increase in the number of businesses located in the municipality.

Source: Government of Alberta, Regional Dashboard, Leduc County



**899** businesses classified by industry in Leduc County.

Source: Government of Alberta, Regional Dashboard, Leduc County, number of businesses, 2022



**15 companies** employ more than 200 people.

Source: Government of Alberta, Regional Dashboard, Leduc County, number of businesses, by size, 2023



In 2023, Leduc County's assessment grew by

**6.95%**

Source: Leduc County

# 2024 TAX BREAKDOWN

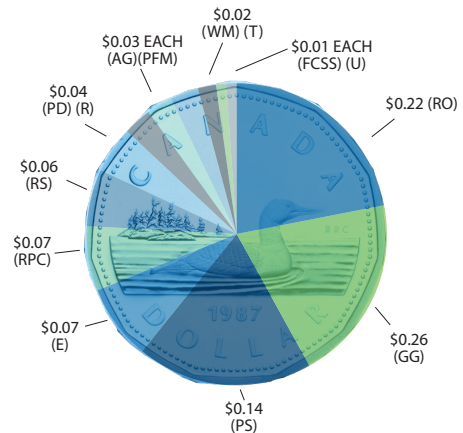
For 2024 Council approved a \$101.2-million **operating budget**, which covers day-to-day municipal operating expenses and includes \$28.9 million collected on behalf of the Government of Alberta and the Leduc Regional Housing Foundation for school, designated industrial property and seniors' housing requisitions. They also approved a \$24.4-million **capital budget**, which includes infrastructure costs for buildings, roads, bridges and equipment.

Between 2023 and 2024, Leduc County experienced notable growth in our overall assessment. Taxable assessment values grew from \$9.24 billion to \$9.86 billion, or 6.71 per cent. This growth provides the County with roughly \$3.5 million in additional tax dollars for 2024. Taking into account these additional tax dollars, no change to our tax rates are needed to meet our budget requirements for 2024. This allows the County to continue providing the high-quality services our citizens and businesses expect.

## WHERE ARE YOUR MUNICIPAL TAX DOLLARS GOING?

### Distribution of operating and capital expense budget

General government (GG)	\$0.26
Road Operations (RO)	\$0.22
Protective services (Fire and Enforcement Services) (PS)	\$0.14
Engineering (E)	\$0.07
Recreation, parks and culture (RPC)	\$0.07
Revenue sharing with the City of Leduc (RS)	\$0.06
Planning and Development (PD)	\$0.04
Reserve contributions (R)	\$0.04
Agricultural Services (AG)	\$0.03
Provincial police funding model (PFM)	\$0.03
Public transit (T)	\$0.02
Waste management (WM)	\$0.02
Family and Community Support Services (FCSS)	\$0.01
Utilities and other (U)	<\$0.01



**TOTAL** **\$1.00**

### \*PROPERTY TAX CHANGE FROM 2023 TO 2024 FOR ALL LEDUC COUNTY PROPERTIES

All properties tax dollar changes from 2023 to 2024	# of properties	% of properties	% of properties impacted
Decrease of \$10,000 or more	13	0.11%	65.43%
Decrease of \$1,000 to \$9,999	35	0.30%	
Decrease of \$100 to \$999	116	0.99%	
Decrease of \$1 to \$99	469	4%	
\$0 (no change)	794	6.78%	
Increase of \$1 to \$100	6,237	53.24%	34.57%
Increase of \$101 to \$500	3,051	26.05%	
Increase of \$501 to \$2,000	691	5.90%	
Increase of \$2,000 or more	308	2.63%	
<b>Leduc County total properties</b>	<b>11,714</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

\*Properties include residential, non-residential, machinery and equipment and designated industrial properties. Figures include requisitions.



## TAX PAYMENT OPTIONS/DEADLINES

- **Mailed** payments must be postmarked by Canada Post before **June 30, 2024**
- **In person** payments must be made at the County Centre on or before **June 28, 2024**
- **Online** payments must be made on or before **June 25, 2024** (NOTE: Online payments are not processed on weekends)
- **Drop-off** payments (cheque only, no cash) in the County Centre mailbox, north side of the building on or before **June 30, 2024**

## RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL ASSESSMENTS

Your assessment is a reflection of your property's market value as of **July 1, 2023**

### Understanding your assessment

In Alberta, residential and most commercial properties are assessed at market value. Your property assessment is a reflection of your property's market value as of **July 1, 2023** and its physical condition as of Dec. 31, 2023.

A valuation date ensures all properties in a municipality are valued as of the same date. The valuation date is set by legislation from the *Municipal Government Act*.

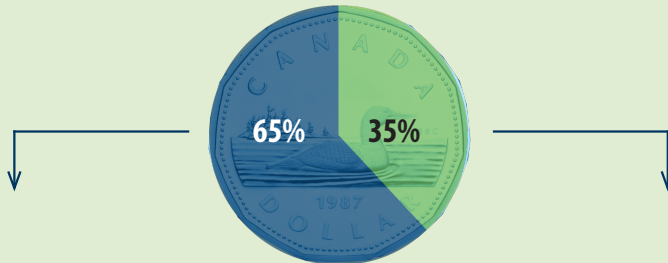
To determine the property assessment, Leduc County's assessment department gathered data from all properties that sold between July 1, 2022 and July 1, 2023.

If you have questions regarding your assessment, please contact Leduc County's Assessment department by phone at **780-955-6412**.

## PROPERTY TAXES ARE COMPRISED OF TWO MAJOR ELEMENTS:

### Municipal property taxes and requisitions

#### 2024 PROPERTY TAXES



#### Municipal property taxes

Municipal property taxes fund services such as:

- agricultural services
- family and community support services
- parks and recreation services
- planning and development services
- protective services (fire and enforcement)
- revenue sharing with the City of Leduc for property taxes collected from Edmonton International Airport (YEG) properties
- road maintenance

#### Requisitions

Each year, Leduc County collects tax dollars on behalf of the **Government of Alberta** and the **Leduc Regional Housing Foundation**. These funds are called requisitions.

Leduc County has no control over this amount and is obligated to collect taxes on behalf of these organizations.

## QUESTIONS? CONTACT US!

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

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

[www.leduc-county.com](http://www.leduc-county.com)

# Citizen Satisfaction Survey — your feedback in action

In the September 2023 issue of the County Chronicle, we shared that Citizen Satisfaction Survey results\* would be incorporated into Leduc County’s operations.

Each year, every Leduc County department creates an operational plan to help guide their work throughout the year.

This year, every department has committed to increasing citizen satisfaction with Leduc County’s

municipal services and have incorporated actions in their operational plans in response to the feedback received in the 2023 Citizen Satisfaction Survey.

In April, each department reported back on activities undertaken from January to March 2024, including on those activities that are tied to increasing citizen satisfaction. Highlights from the first quarter (January to March) include the following:

Actions	Target dates	Status as of March 31	Deliverables
Incorporate actions into the 2024 Corporate Plan and departmental operational plans in response to the Citizen Satisfaction Survey.	Q1 2024	Ongoing	▶ Goals to increase citizen satisfaction have been added to all departments’ operational plans.
Enhance communication to citizens about the services provided by the County.	2024	Ongoing	▶ Incorporate articles into the County Chronicle based on survey results to inform citizens of services offered by the County.
Enforcement Services will address nuisance and unsightly properties in partnership with Agricultural Services and Planning and Development departments.	Q4 2024	Ongoing	Respond to property complaints within three business days.  ▶ From January to March, a total of <b>15</b> complaints were investigated and one file remains open.
Form a staff committee to determine priorities and strategies related to urban development.	Q4 2024	Ongoing	▶ A Development Infrastructure Review Team (DIRT) has been formed to help determine priorities and strategies.
Educate road users through traffic enforcement interactions and high-visibility traffic operations in key areas.	Q4 2024	Ongoing	▶ Averaged <b>20</b> traffic operations per month in January, February and March.
Assist departments in protecting the County’s road infrastructure through the enforcement of road bans.	Q4 2024	Ongoing	▶ Averaged <b>55</b> patrols per month in January, February and March.

Support initiatives that focus on commercial vehicle safety, cargo securement and dangerous goods.	Q4 2024	Ongoing	▶ Averaged <b>four</b> cargo securement operations per month in January, February and March.
Conduct proactive patrols on roads that are identified as hot spots with frequent complaints and/or incidents.	Q4 2024	Ongoing	▶ Averaged <b>233</b> patrols per month in January, February and March.
A manual and resource kit will be developed and available for seniors and their families to help successfully navigate through the aging process and access available resources for support.	Q2 2024	Ongoing	▶ An engagement strategy has been implemented with Leduc County seniors to gather input to support the development of the manual.

\*Full Citizen Satisfaction Survey results can be viewed at [leduc-county.com/citizen-survey](https://leduc-county.com/citizen-survey).

Operational plans and actions related to citizen satisfaction can be viewed at [leduc-county.com/quarterly-reports](https://leduc-county.com/quarterly-reports).

### 2023 Citizen Satisfaction Survey results high-level breakdown

- ▶ 512 survey responses
- ▶ 90 per cent of respondents own property and live in the County
- ▶ 48 per cent think the County is planning for the future
- ▶ 69 per cent think the County has a healthy local economy

Services **most** satisfied with are:

- ▶ transfer stations
- ▶ fire and rescue services
- ▶ recreation facilities

Services **least** satisfied with are:

- ▶ enforcement against unsightly premises
- ▶ road repairs/construction/maintenance
- ▶ dust control

Most important issues for respondents are:

- ▶ infrastructure/road maintenance
- ▶ crime reduction/public safety
- ▶ agricultural land use policy/land preservation
- ▶ lower taxes/more value for taxes/fiscal management



# Taking care of our seniors and their well-being

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day is Saturday, June 15, 2024 – a day to help bring awareness to the importance of preventing elder abuse, the struggles some of our senior community members experience and to help identify and combat elder abuse.

The Government of Alberta's elder abuse prevention strategy defines elder abuse as any intentional or reckless act or wilful and negligent disregard, occurring within a relationship of family, trust or dependency, directed at someone 65 years of age or older, that:

- ▶ Causes physical, emotional or psychological harm.
- ▶ Involves the misappropriation or misuse of money or other personal possessions or personal or real property.
- ▶ Subjects an individual to non-consensual sexual contact, activity or behaviour.
- ▶ Fails to provide the necessities of life.

Elder abuse is often committed by someone known to the victim, such as a family member, friend or caregiver. To note, emotional and financial abuse are the most frequently reported forms of elder abuse.

Some common signs of elder abuse:

- ▶ confusion
- ▶ depression or anxiety
- ▶ unexplained injuries
- ▶ changes in hygiene
- ▶ seeming fearful around certain people
- ▶ fear or worry when talking about money

It can happen to anyone and to a person of any age. Leduc County Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) is here to support anyone who may be experiencing abuse, stress or is struggling with mental health.

## Resources available

### Leduc County FCSS

- ▶ Provides subsidies to low-income individuals to access counselling services.
- ▶ Offers free one-to-one support to encourage people to cope and be resilient.
- ▶ Hosts workshops to promote positive mental health strategies.

Reach out to our FCSS team at **780-979-2385** if you feel you need support.

### Edmonton Seniors Abuse Help Line

Call **780-454-8888** available 24/7 to report and to get help.

### 211

Dial **211** or text 211 and type INFO for 24-7 information on social supports such as:

- ▶ mental health supports
- ▶ crisis resources
- ▶ disaster supports
- ▶ violence / abuse support
- ▶ senior support
- ▶ food and basic necessities



# Making space for our farmers

Leduc County would like to remind residents, commuters and visitors that this is an agricultural community and until winter settles in, farmers are busy cultivating, seeding, spraying and harvesting their cropland.

Farmers are an essential part of our community and can be found in large equipment on gravel roads and secondary highways moving from field-to-field. We ask you give them the space they need to maneuver and be patient as large equipment can be slow to move, have large blind spot areas and swing wide to make turns.

## *Tips for driving and sharing the road with farm equipment:*

- ▶ Be alert and watch for slow-moving farm equipment and any alert flags, signs or flashing lights, as they are an indicator of the equipment.
- ▶ Keep your distance and stay alert, as large trucks and other agricultural equipment need to make wide turns onto and off of fields.
- ▶ Do not pass until you are certain there is no oncoming traffic and the operator is aware of your intention.
- ▶ Before passing, ensure there is no one approaching behind you and trying to pass before you do.
- ▶ Watch for uncontrolled intersections and oncoming traffic.

Together, we can support our farmers and make our roads safer to travel on.

# What's next: Land-use Bylaw update



As Leduc County enters Phase 3 of public engagement in support of the Land-use Bylaw update, we're asking folks to watch [yoursayleducounty.com](https://yoursayleducounty.com) for new information starting next month.

A complete draft of the updated bylaw will be shared with interested stakeholders before it goes through a statutory public hearing

process with Leduc County Council this fall. Key information, such as dates on public input opportunities and the public hearing process, will be posted on:

- ▶ [yoursayleducounty.com/shaping-your-county](https://yoursayleducounty.com/shaping-your-county)
- ▶ [leduc-county.com/lub](https://leduc-county.com/lub)

Updates will also be shared with

people who previously registered their email address, specific to this project. If you haven't, there's still time. Visit [yoursayleducounty.com/shaping-your-county](https://yoursayleducounty.com/shaping-your-county), scroll to the bottom of the page and enter your email address under 'STAY INFORMED.'

Stay tuned...

# Automatic payment option available for utility customers

Leduc County offers utility customers various bill payment options. One of the more convenient options is automatic payments, also called direct withdrawals.

How does this work?

Visit [leduc-county.com/water-and-sewer](https://leduc-county.com/water-and-sewer) to complete the form online or download a PDF form.

- ▶ The form is for pre-authorized debit and needs to be submitted by the 20th of the month.
- ▶ Include a void cheque or pre-authorized debit form from your bank with your submission.
- ▶ The amount due per your utility bill will be automatically withdrawn from your bank account on the due date of the utility bill.
- ▶ All past due balances must be paid to begin direct withdrawals.

Automatic payments can be cancelled at any time with two weeks written notice.

To learn more and to view other payment options for your utility bill, visit [leduc-county.com/water-and-sewer](https://leduc-county.com/water-and-sewer) or call **780-770-9040**.

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## Ag Matters

Are you interested in learning about various topics on all things agriculture? We have a monthly digital newsletter sent right to your inbox!

Featuring topics such as webinars and events hosted by Leduc County and other municipalities, news and programs from the Government of Alberta and other articles of interest; it's a great read for our community.

Sign up to receive both local and regional agriculture information and events at [leduc-county.com/ag-matters](https://leduc-county.com/ag-matters) — because in our community — Ag Matters.



# Secure your cargo for safer travels

Securing your load leads to safer travels, minimizes the risk to other motorists and prevents cargo from littering ditches and roadways in our community. So, when do you need to secure your cargo? Whenever you're hauling loose items heavy or light, near or far.

Drivers are responsible for making sure their cargo is secured to their vehicle and failing to do so can result in a fine. Further, if you lose your load and don't retrieve it, tax dollars must be spent to clean up the litter, which costs us all money.

▶ ***“Not securing cargo to your vehicle during transport jeopardizes the lives and safety of other motorists and can litter our community. Please take a few minutes to ensure the cargo you are transporting is properly secured to protect the public and prevent any fines.”***

*Clarence Nelson, Director of Enforcement Services*

## **Tips for securing your cargo:**

- ▶ Use appropriate tie-down straps to properly secure objects (not bungee cords).
- ▶ Place light objects lower in the container to prevent them from flying or falling out.
- ▶ Securely fasten all large items, like mattresses and construction equipment, directly to your vehicle with appropriate tie-down straps.
- ▶ Put loose items, like garbage and yard waste, in a covered container so they are easier to secure and to prevent contents from blowing away.
- ▶ Run straps through and around items to help secure them safely down.
- ▶ Place a tarp, straps or cargo nets over loose items to ensure they don't fall from your vehicle.
- ▶ While travelling, check your cargo regularly to ensure nothing has slid or fallen out.

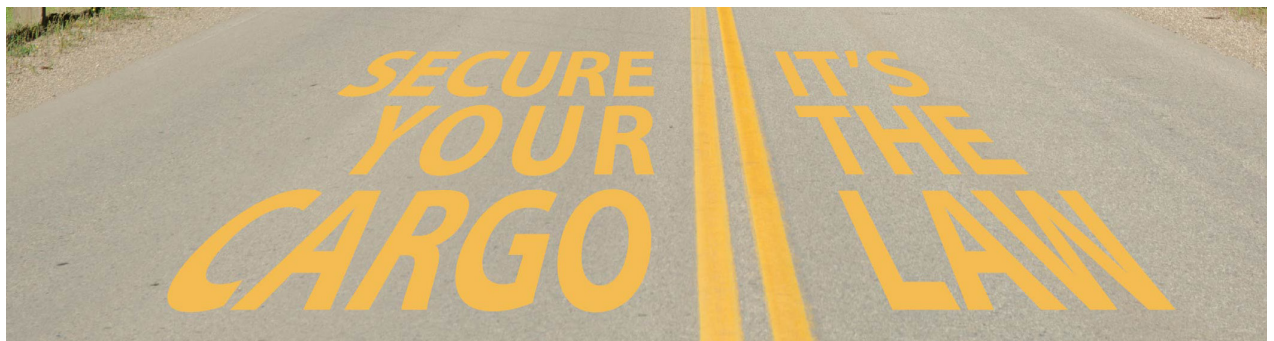
Visit [leduc-county.com/secure-your-cargo](https://leduc-county.com/secure-your-cargo) for more tips on securing cargo.

## **Regulations**

Failing to secure cargo when travelling on a local County roadway (excluding provincial roadways) could result in a \$486 fine. Commercial vehicle operators could also face an \$810 fine under the *Traffic Safety Act* for failing to secure their cargo.

If a vehicle tracks earth, sand, gravel or other material – including vehicle fluids – onto a roadway, the vehicle operator may be required to remove it or may be charged related clean-up fees. If there is any damage to the roadway, the vehicle operator may be charged related fees to repair the damage.

If your cargo becomes unsecured and falls onto the road, take reasonable steps to safely remove it. If you are unable to do so, contact Leduc County Enforcement Services at **780-955-5005**.



# Leduc County Parks and Recreation is ready for summer!



Each year, Leduc County Parks and Recreation is out and about in the community offering various camps, social events, park and plays, drop-in programs and more.

## Summer camps

Building memories and new friendships is an important part of going to camp, so we're offering our summer camps again! Registration is open for our three-day Lego, cooking and creator camps happening in July and August.

### Lego Camps

Get ready for some serious Lego fun, try new things and enhance your Lego-creating abilities while we build some awesome creations together

through Lego stations, challenges, team activities and more.

Cost is \$110 per participant; camps are 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. for ages 7 to 15.

#### *Glen Park Hall Lego Camp*

▶ July 9 to 11

#### *Cloverlawn Hall Lego Camp*

▶ Aug. 6 to 8

### Cooking Camps

Learn to cook up some delicious meals with fresh ingredients from local producers and take part in games, brain teasing challenges and creative crafts.

Cost is \$110 per participant;

camps are 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. for ages 8 to 15.

#### *Rolly View Hall Cooking Camp*

▶ July 16 to 18

#### *Telford Community Hall Cooking Camp*

▶ July 23 to 25

### Creator Camps

Cultivate talents, enhance artistic skills, experiment with different mediums and techniques and develop knowledge of digital technologies in this new camp.

Cost is \$110 per participant; camps are 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. for ages 7 to 15.

### *Glen Park Hall Creator Camp*

- ▶ July 30 to Aug. 1

### *New Sarepta Agriplex Creator Camp*

- ▶ Aug. 13 to 15

Visit [leduc-county.com/recreation](https://leduc-county.com/recreation) to learn more and register.

## Community events

Bring your family to one or all of the following free community events taking place this summer.

### *Leduc County Days*

Join the fun for live music, local vendors, a family fun zone, local art display, and Leduc County department engagement stations. Regardless of where you live, everyone is welcome to attend.

### *Leduc County Days East*

- ▶ New Sarepta Agriplex
- ▶ Aug. 20
- ▶ 4 to 7 p.m.

### *Indigenous Peoples Day*

Join in as we recognize and celebrate the history, heritage, resilience and diversity of our Indigenous community here in Alberta.

### *Rundles Mission Historic Site*

- ▶ June 21
- ▶ More information to come at [leduc-county.com/recreation](https://leduc-county.com/recreation).

## Seniors concerts

Everyone is welcome to come enjoy coffee, treats and a live music performance from Kim Gates Music.

### *Strawberry Hall*

- ▶ July 16
- ▶ 9 to 11 a.m.

### *Looma Hall*

- ▶ Aug. 7
- ▶ 1 to 3 p.m.

## Ice cream socials

Come on down for a free ice cream cone and some fun entertainment!

### *East Vistas Wi-Fi Park: 3003 61 Ave. NE, Leduc County*

- ▶ July 17
- ▶ 6 to 8 p.m.

### *Mission Beach – 47436 Range Road 15, Leduc County*

- ▶ Aug. 17
- ▶ 2 to 4 p.m.

## Parks Day

This fun-filled day will feature a variety of family-friendly activities and games, live music by Kim Gates, face painting, a live wood carving demonstration and nature awareness activities.

### *Jubilee Park Campground day-use area*

- ▶ July 13
- ▶ 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Visit [leduc-county.com/recreation](https://leduc-county.com/recreation) to learn more and to register.

## Day trips

What would summer look like without a few day trips of adventure planned? Register for one or for all these exciting events!

### *Telus World of Science*

- ▶ July 19

### *Edmonton Corn Maze and Rabbit Hill Summer Tubing*

- ▶ July 26

### *Sassy G Farms*

- ▶ Aug. 9

### *Activate and Movie*

- ▶ Aug. 16

Visit [leduc-county.com/recreation](https://leduc-county.com/recreation) to learn more and register.



# Seniors assisted transportation subsidy program rolling right along

The cost of getting to and from appointments can be a barrier for many of our rural senior citizens, so last fall Leduc County launched a pilot program in partnership with Drive Happiness Association. This program was developed to subsidize transportation services to help our seniors maintain an independent lifestyle.

Leduc County believes rural residents should have the resources to age-in-place and aims to support older adults access needed services. In the first eight months of the program:

- ▶ 21 riders were registered
- ▶ 24 round trip rides were provided

## Eligibility

This service is available to seniors residing in Leduc County, Town of Calmar, Town of Thorsby and Village of Warburg. Eligible seniors must be over the age of 65 and be sufficiently mobile, such as entering and exiting vehicles on their own. There are no income restrictions.

Those aged 65 to 79 years may access up to five free round-trip rides per year for medical appointments. Those aged 80 and older may access up to 10 free round-trip rides per year for social, basic or medical reasons. Additional rides can be accessed at a reasonable cost.



Here's what we've heard from our riders when asked, "How has your experience been so far?"

- ▶ *"The drivers are exceptional!"*
- ▶ *"1 million plus one per cent the best!"*
- ▶ *"I have more trips booked."*
- ▶ *"This has been a blessing for my mom and our family. We will be happy to pay for extra trips."*

## Volunteers needed!

Drive Happiness uses volunteers who are provided a reimbursement based on mileage and is always looking for new volunteers. If you love to drive and have some time to give, contact Drive Happiness for more information.

To learn about becoming a volunteer or if you need a ride, call **780-424-5438** or **1-888-336-4503**.

# Weeding out the (ob)noxious

Weeds are not only a nuisance in our backyards, flower beds and gardens, but they also present a significant threat to agricultural lands by taking over seeded crops and to the environment by affecting native vegetation. To keep certain invasive species under control, Leduc County works with residents to manage weeds on both private and public lands.

Alberta's *Weed Control Act* is the guiding legislation in declaring noxious or prohibited noxious weeds that present significant economic, social or ecological risks throughout the province. Under these regulations, weeds declared as noxious or prohibited noxious must be controlled or destroyed.

By identifying and controlling weeds early, it's easier to limit their damaging effects. Leduc County Agricultural Services can assist with weed identification and work with you to develop an effective control plan.

Noxious weeds can spread rapidly causing severe crop losses and economic hardship. Under the *Weed Control Act*, residents are responsible for controlling the spread of noxious weeds by mowing, cutting frequently or spraying.

Examples of noxious weeds include:

- ▶ Dame's rocket
- ▶ Yellow toadflax
- ▶ Ox-eye daisy
- ▶ White cockle

Prohibited noxious weeds pose a serious threat as they spread rapidly and are highly competitive for space and nutrients against other plants. Under the *Weed Control Act*, prohibited noxious weeds must be destroyed by either pulling, cultivating or spraying with a selective herbicide.

Examples of prohibited noxious weeds include:

- ▶ Purple loosestrife
- ▶ Orange hawkweed
- ▶ Knotweed
- ▶ Himalayan balsam

For more information on weed control and rental equipment to help mitigate, call **780-955-4593** or visit [leduc-county.com/weed-control](http://leduc-county.com/weed-control).



Purple loosestrife



Yellow toadflax



Orange hawkweed



Himalayan balsam

# Looking in on our Family Resource Network

Leduc County provides support and services to families with children under the age of 18. Whether you're looking for in-home parenting support, family fun activities or exploring referrals to support your family needs, we are available.

Our Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) is a provincial Family Resource Network (FRN) hub that delivers high-quality prevention and early intervention services and supports for parents and caregivers who have children under the age of 18.

Support offered centers on strengthening parent and caregiver knowledge, coping and problem-solving skills, access to community resources, improving child and youth development, building resiliency and fostering well-being.

These supports are available to residents in Leduc County, Beaumont, Devon, Calmar, Thorsby and Warburg.

## Upcoming programs

Both our FCSS and FRN programs host various workshops throughout the year on various topics geared for families in our community.

Visit [leduc-county.com/fcss](http://leduc-county.com/fcss) to find resources, services and programs.

## Drop-in centres

Our FRN department hosts weekly drop-in centres for families with children and youth ages infant to 18. Join in to get connected, gain resources and check out our games, crafts, slime supplies and more!

All ages are welcome to stop by our drop-in centres for:

- ▶ coffee and snacks
- ▶ resources and referrals
- ▶ free Wi-Fi and computer use
- ▶ games and crafts
- ▶ programs and supports

## Thorsby

- ▶ 4908 48 street in the modular building across from the Arctic Spas Recreation Complex
- ▶ Tuesdays 2 to 8 p.m. and Thursdays 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

## Devon

- ▶ 5 Jasper Court in the old Robina Baker School
- ▶ Mondays 2 to 8 p.m.

## Kid Kits

Do you have a little one between zero and five years old? Our FRN department has free books, toys, activity kits and craft supplies available.

Kid Kits are free toolkits designed for children up to the age of five and their caregivers and include activity cards describing how different actions can support childhood development.

For more information on this free program, call **780-979-2385**, email [FRN@leduc-county.com](mailto:FRN@leduc-county.com) or visit [leduc-county.com/kid-kits](http://leduc-county.com/kid-kits) today.

Alberta

Provincial Family  
Resource Networks





# NEW Transfer station access cards

Leduc County residents can anticipate their new transfer station access card hitting their mailbox this summer.

Transfer station access cards are required when utilizing any one of the eight facilities found throughout the County. One card is provided to each Leduc County property that contains a residence. Should a property contain more than one home, each would be eligible for an access card. Cards issued next month will have an expiry of Aug. 31, 2026. Current pink cards can be used until **Aug. 31, 2024.**

Please note, these cards aren't intended for commercial, industrial, agricultural or institutional use.

Visit [leduc-county.com/TSAC](https://leduc-county.com/TSAC) to view a complete list of all transfer station locations, how to apply for an access card and to learn more about the rules of waste disposal. Residents can also call **780-770-9040**, Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

## Great news!

The New Sarepta Transfer Station opens on Thursdays starting July 4. We're opening an additional day to better serve our residents. This location will be open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday each week.

For a complete list of other County waste transfer stations, visit [leduc-county.com/transfer-stations](https://leduc-county.com/transfer-stations).



# Uncontrolled rural intersection safety

Intersections in rural areas can be unmarked and uncontrolled; therefore, Leduc County wants to remind travelers of the rules while approaching and passing through them. Uncontrolled intersections have no traffic signs or signal lights and may also apply to an intersection commonly referred to as a “T” intersection.

Other drivers may not be expecting traffic to cross their path at an uncontrolled intersection, so be sure to check for vehicles and farm equipment approaching from your left and right — slow down and yield to the right-of-way — (the vehicle to your right) and be prepared to stop.

## Tips to stay safe while driving through uncontrolled intersections

- ▶ Slow down and look before proceeding — watch for other vehicles, farm equipment, and pedestrians.
- ▶ Ensure it is safe to turn left or right by checking for oncoming traffic before turning.
- ▶ Leave ample room between your vehicle and the one in front of you, as this not only avoids a collision, but also avoids rocks chipping your windshield.
- ▶ Be prepared for the unexpected and drive carefully.

Road conditions can be unpredictable and lighting on roads varies, so always use caution when approaching uncontrolled intersections, stay alert and share the road accordingly. Let's all get home safely.



# Rural Roads Initiative underway

Every summer, multiple sections of gravel roads throughout Leduc County undergo various improvements as part of the County's Rural Roads Initiative.

The roads in the program are identified as those most in need of improvement, and a lot of the projects tied to this program are already well underway.

Projects in this year's program include:

- ▶ 8.4 km of shoulder pulls
- ▶ 850 m of bank stabilization
- ▶ 850 m of spot repair
- ▶ 1.1 km of drainage work
- ▶ 4.8 km of road rehabilitation

The Rural Roads Initiative began in 2018 and runs annually each summer. A total of \$1.125 million is budgeted towards this program in the 2024 budget.

For more information, contact Road Operations at **780-979-6185**.



Pictured above: erosion repair before and after on Range Road 34 north of Township Road 492

# Camping season is here!



Summer vacation is almost here, which means it's a great time to go camping, so book your site today!

In 2023, Leduc County launched an online reservation system for three of its campgrounds: Jubilee Park Campground, Sunnybrook Creek Park Group Campground and Genesee Park Group Campground. The online system allows users to preview and reserve available campsites and pay for the reservation at the time of booking.

If you haven't booked your sites yet, there's still time and spots available!

Visit [leduc-county.com/campgrounds](https://leduc-county.com/campgrounds) to learn more about each campground and to book online.

## About Leduc County campgrounds

- ▶ **Jubilee Park Campground** is located 15 minutes south of Calmar on Wizard Lake. There are powered sites, non-powered sites and comfort cabins. Amenities include a concession, playground, hiking trails, swimming area, boat launch, sani-dump and showers.
- ▶ Jubilee Park Campground has a day-use area for those who wish to come and spend the day enjoying the lake and beach area.
  - ▶ Day-use area parking is free Mondays through Thursdays, excluding statutory holidays. Paid parking is in effect on weekends, including Fridays and statutory holidays, at \$8 per day or \$40 for a season pass.



### Group camping

- ▶ **Sunnybrook Creek Park Group Campground** is located along Highway 39 west of Sunnybrook. There are six campsites with individual firepits, a picnic shelter, a central group firepit, double vault toilets and a water hand pump (non-potable water).
- ▶ **Genesee Park Group Campground** is located at 3053 Township Road 510A immediately west of Genesee Heritage Park. There are nine campsites with individual firepits, a picnic shelter, a central group firepit, double vault toilets, a walking path adjacent to Genesee Heritage Park and a water hand pump (non-potable water).

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

# Seas the day with boat safety

Hot weather brings summer fun and what better way than to be out on the water. Boating is a popular way to spend a day at Leduc County's favoured spots — Wizard Lake and Pigeon Lake. If you're planning to spend a day on the water, take precautions. The following outlines some safety tips, whether you're new to boating or have sailed through a few seasons.



- ▶ **Wear a lifejacket or personal flotation device (PFD):** Transport Canada requires a lifejacket or PFD be on board for each person, including human-powered and motorized watercrafts. Choose a brightly coloured life jacket, such as red, orange or yellow to be more visible when in the water.
- ▶ **Operate at safe speeds:** take into consideration the weather, visibility and maneuverability of your boat. Be mindful of your boat's wake and the impact it may have on other water users.
- ▶ **Stay alert to the conditions:** temperature and weather conditions can quickly change and being alert allows for quick response.
- ▶ **Carry required safety devices:** you should have a bailer or manual water pump, watertight flashlight, flares, paddles, sound-signaling device and buoyant heaving line.
- ▶ **Boat sober:** impaired driving — whether on roadways or waterways — is illegal. Operators face the same penalties operating a boat while impaired as driving a vehicle. Passengers aboard a boat may consume alcohol, as long as that boat is licensed for alcohol consumption, or has a permanent toilet, cooking facilities, sleeping facilities and is anchored or docked.

Learn more about planning ahead, being prepared, rules and laws and boating responsibly at [alberta.ca/boating](https://alberta.ca/boating).

# Have Your Say, Leduc County — sign up today

Leduc County knows that an engaged public and effective public participation improves the quality of the decisions we make. Community input helps shape various initiatives, programs, bylaws and more, making an essential impact on County projects for years to come.

Public participation projects can vary and may involve different or all members of our community. Signing up and participating ensures your voice and your priorities are captured through legitimate input sources, such as surveys, mapping, community forums and polls.

Registration is quick and easy, and the impact may last a lifetime.

Have your say at [YourSayLeducCounty.com](https://YourSayLeducCounty.com) to make a difference that counts.



# CONTACT US


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 Leduc County

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

### **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**

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### **Division 4**

#### **Larry Wanchuk**

780-920-0674

### **Division 5**

#### **Mayor Tanni Doblanko**

780-920-0675

### **Division 6**

#### **Glenn Belozer**

780-920-0676

### **Division 7**

#### **Ray Scobie**

780-920-0677

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