

Volume 4, Issue 1
Spring, 2021

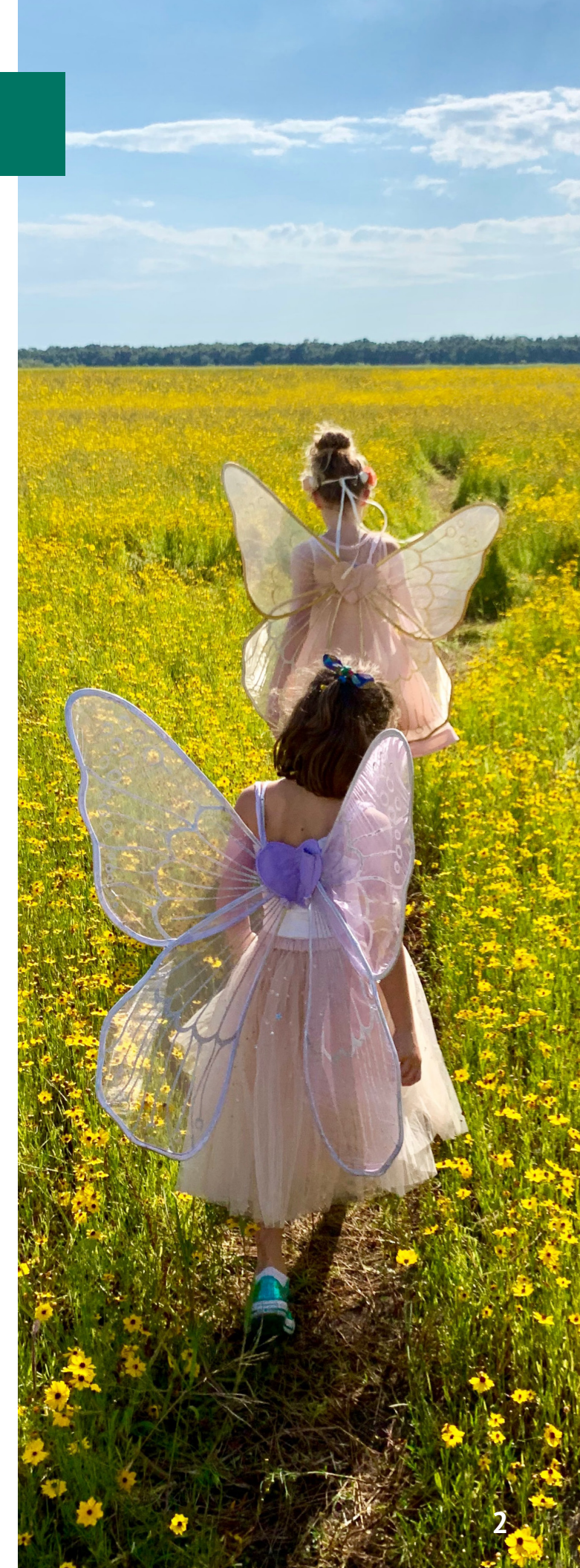


Saddle Hills County

LIVING

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MAJOR INITIATIVES UPDATE



RAW WATER ACCESS

The \$40m Central Peace Regional Water project (phase 1 & 2), to draw water from the Peace River, was announced in 2020. The financial support of both Federal and Provincial governments will allow the County and neighbouring municipalities in the Central Peace to provide a reliable source of water for years to come.

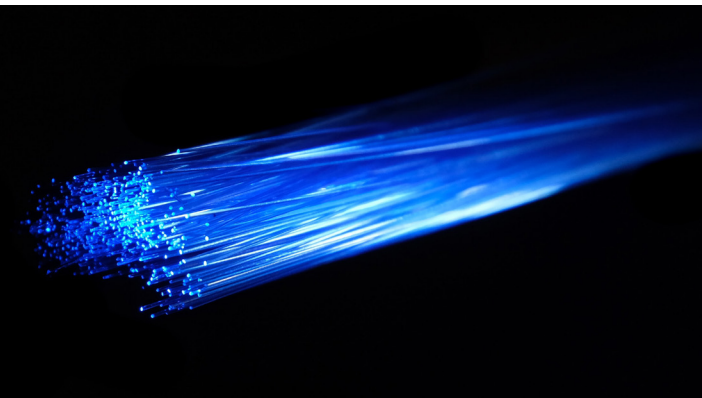
RURAL POTABLE WATER

The Bonanza- Bay Tree water line project is ongoing and 2021 sees a budget of \$2,500,000 for expansion, including 10.8km in Bonanza and 14.8km in Ksituan. As of the end of 2020 the County has installed 36km of water lines and connected 46 rural water customers.



PROJECT AURORA

Saddle Hills County has partnered with Canadian Fiber Optics in an effort to provide fiber optic connections to a large portion of the County, contingent on grant funding being obtained. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to the residents and businesses for their support in this endeavor.



SENIORS HOUSING PROJECT

The public consultation stage of the Seniors Housing Project has now been completed as of the first two months of 2021, led by the Grande Spirit Foundation. The architects are incorporating feedback from those sessions and are presently preparing a concept design for the facility. Updates will be posted to the project website spiritrivertlodge.ca as they come available.



As a rural community our roads and associated infrastructure are an essential facet of life within the County. As well as the major projects mentioned below, a number of other projects have been underway, notably a significant amount of disaster recovery work to repair bridges and roads affected by the flooding of 2018 and 2020, which will continue into this year. This includes repairs at the Doe River slide and multiple other small slides around the County, at a total cost of \$1.6m. Maintenance scheduled for this year includes a projected replacement of over 100 culverts, 600km of regravelling and several km of shoulder pull, bridge maintenance and minor upgrades, at a total cost of approximately \$2m.

CULVERT REPLACEMENT

2021 has already been a busy year for the Operations Department with the replacement of two large culverts, on Township Road 775, near Range Road 72 at a cost of \$3.5m and on Range Road 62, near Township Road 761 at a cost of \$1.03m. On top of this the County has also applied for grant funding to replace two other large culverts within the County that are reaching the end of their lifespan, as a preventative measure going forward.

ROAD RECONSTRUCTION

Road reconstruction is a large part of living within a rural northern community, where roads are often affected by adverse weather conditions, most notably snowfall and flooding. Currently underway is 2.4km of rebuilding on Range Road 72, from Township 775 south, at a cost of \$992,000 and completion of 1 mile of new road and 1 mile of upgrading on Range Road 63, from Township Road 810 to Township Road 804.



2021 ROADS UPDATE

THE SADDLE HILLS COUNTY ADVANTAGE



We are situated in the Central Peace region of northwestern Alberta along the southern banks of the Peace River, right at the centre of the Montney Gas Formation.

With convenient transportation by road, rail or air and a ready workforce, Saddle Hills County represents an ideal opportunity for petrochemical manufacturers, companies that service the oil and gas industry, agriculture or the forest industry.

The Alberta Petrochemical Incentive Program is offering up to 12 percent eligible capital costs for new projects in the province. Saddle Hills County is an ideal location for such investment.

MONTNEY PLAY - FACTS

- One of the largest known gas reserves in the world
- 12,719 billion m³ of marketable natural gas*
- 2,308 million m³ of marketable NGLs
- 179 million m³ of marketable oil
- *145 years of Canada's 2012 consumption

PIPELINES

Saddle Hills County is connected with the North American pipeline network through TC Energy Corporation and the Coastal Gaslink pipeline to the west coast will only enhance our connectivity.

THE REGION

The larger region, including Dawson Creek and Fort St. John, BC, Grande Prairie and Fairview, AB, represents a diverse economic environment which includes:

- manufacturing and warehousing
- transportation and logistics
- oil and gas

CENTRAL PEACE REGIONAL WATER PROJECT

Saddle Hills County is in the process of constructing a new raw water supply intake on the Peace River as well as approximately 36km of new raw water pipeline.

The \$40 million project announced in September includes \$16 million in funding from the federal government and \$20 million from the provincial government with Saddle Hills County providing the balance.

HIGHLIGHTS AND FEATURES

Economy

The larger region offers population of some 42,445 with a workforce of approximately 30,772. We are home to a thriving oil and gas industry with access to national and international markets.

Infrastructure

Saddle Hills County is connected by major road networks such as Highways 2 and 49 (AB) and Highway 97 (BC) to the major ports and centres of western Canada. Additionally, rail service by CN is close by in Dawson Creek, Rycroft and Woking.

Water and wastewater infrastructure is in place to serve the local population and we have the ability and desire to invest and expand to meet the needs of industry.

We are a short distance from airports at Grande Prairie, Dawson Creek and Fort St. John.

12% INCENTIVE

Up to 12% of eligible capital costs for new projects covered by the Alberta Government

Business Advantages

- No business tax or licensing fees
- Low provincial and local taxes
- Cost-competitiveness

Demographics

The larger region includes: cities of Grande Prairie, Dawson Creek and Fort St. John as well as the municipalities of Fairview and the Central Peace Region.

Our Community

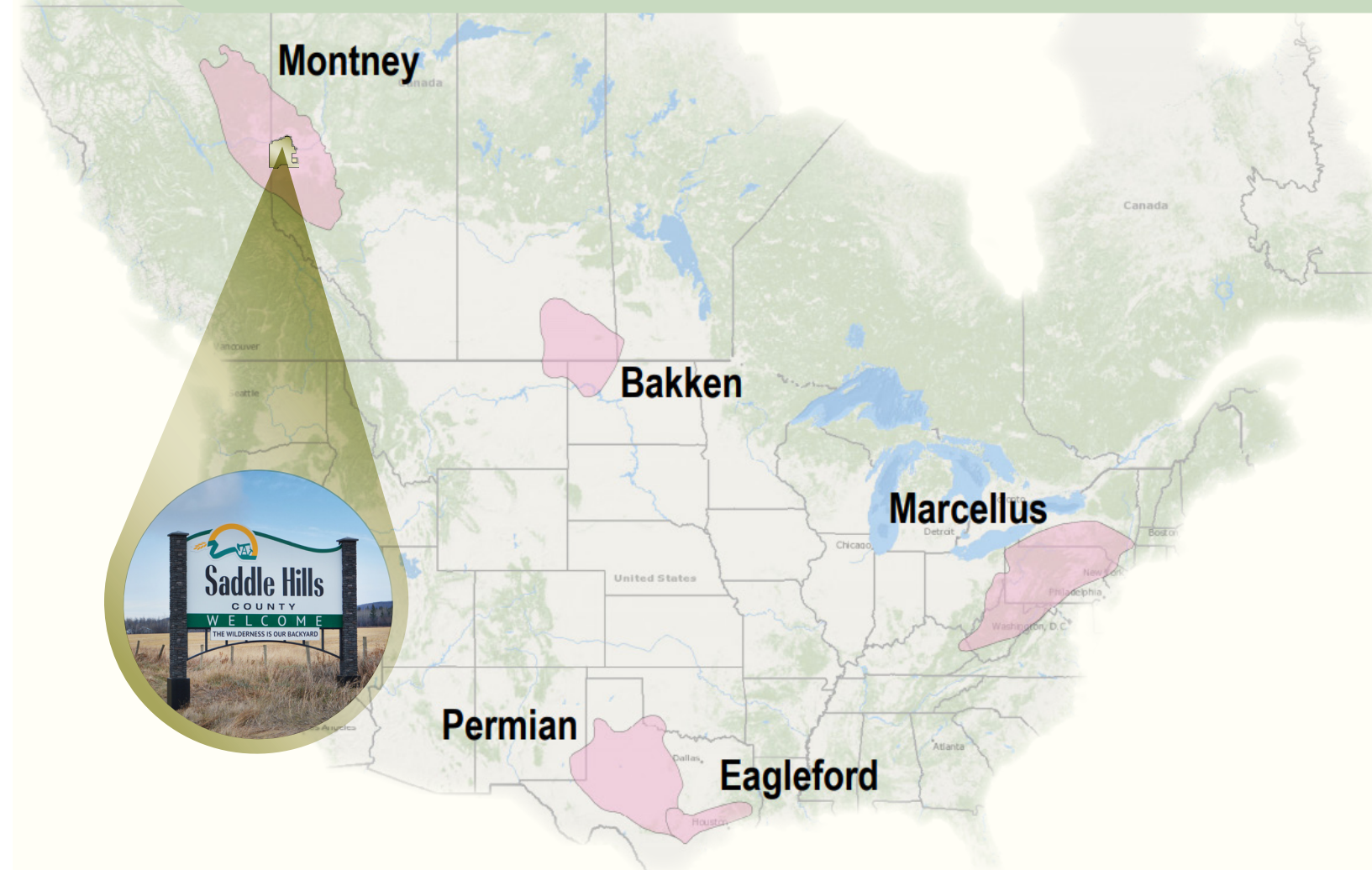
In addition to our long history of working with the oil and gas industry, Saddle Hills County is home to a diverse agricultural community which produces crops including; pulses, cereals, canola, legumes as well as bison, elk, goats and sheep. The most common livestock is cattle, with an estimated 26,429 head.



For more information contact:
Cary Merritt, CAO
780.864.3760 ext. 122
admin@saddlehills.ab.ca
www.saddlehills.ab.ca

CENTRE OF THE MONTNEY PLAY

AN IDEAL OPPURTUNITY FOR PETROCHEMICAL MANUFACTURERS



LET US HELP YOU MAKE YOUR NEXT MOVE

Call our CAO, Cary Merritt: 780.864.3760, ext. 122



admin@saddlehills.ab.ca

saddlehills.ab.ca

[saddlehillscounty](https://www.facebook.com/saddlehillscounty)

[saddlehillsab](https://twitter.com/saddlehillsab)

COUNTY HISTORY

Here at the County we are always looking for new ways to explore and expand upon our knowledge of the County and it's residents and, as such, we are currently looking for local collaborators for a project that expands upon the history of the County.

With great help from the South Peace Regional Archives and others we have already begun to gather as much information on the local area as we can but we would appreciate your help in expanding this even further!

Do you have a story of a local resident or area you'd like to share? Perhaps a photograph, letter, book or item that has historical or sentimental connection to the County or its residents? We would love to hear from you! To get in touch please email communications@saddlehills.ab.ca, call our office at 780.864.3760 or find us on social media. We can't wait to hear all of the incredible stories we know are out there.



Ksituan Baseball Team (adult men) sitting in a field with baseball equipment, 1933



Norman Ellison standing in a farmyard in the Blueberry Mountain area with a saddled pony and a small colt. Various outbuildings are visible in the background, 1942.

South Peace Regional Archives began operating in January 2000 as a project of the Grande Prairie Museum and a member of the Archives Society of Alberta. On July 30, 2007 the South Peace Regional Archives Society was formed. All persons interested in having a voice in the preservation of archival records in the South Peace Country of Alberta are encouraged to become members.

South Peace Regional Archives is a charitable organization. Donations are gratefully accepted through CanadaHelps.org.

Canadian Made Subscription Boxes



COUNCIL SUMMARY



Below is a brief summary of some of the activities and decisions made by council since November 2020

VIRTUAL VISIT WITH TODD LOEWEN

At the invitation of Council, MLA Todd Loewen joined the March 23, 2021 meeting by phone to discuss issues and concerns from Councillors and Ratepayers including the Provincial response to COVID-19, the possible closure of the Woking School, among other items.

ILLUMINATION AND SECURITY CAMERA PROPOSAL FOR SAVANNA MAILBOXES

After a series of break ins at local mailbox sites Administration was directed to provide solar-powered lighting, if required, and security cameras to the Savanna mailbox site.

BUSING AND REFRESHMENTS FOR SCHOOLS

Council have agreed to sponsor busing and refreshments for schools within the County to take children to the newly opened Saddle Hills County Slopes toboggan hill.

RCMP VISIT AND TOWNHALL

Sergeant Bryce Tarzwell of the RCMP visited Council at their regular meeting on March 9, 2021 to introduce himself and provide an update. This was followed by a live townhall meeting on the County's Facebook page on March 15. Some 1,500 saw the broadcast and it can be found at @saddlehillscounty.

REPLACEMENT OF SELF-CONTAINED BREATHING APPARATUS

Council approved the replacement of all County Fire Department Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) packs, six at each fire hall, in 2021, at a cost of \$288,000, to help minimize any compatibility issues due to manufacturer upgrades and changes to NFPA and/or Operational Health and Safety standards that could result in replacing the equipment in phases over multiple years.

PARTNERSHIP WITH CANADIAN FIBER OPTICS

January 2021 saw Council authorize Administration to proceed with a partnership with Canadian Fiber Optics for an application to the Universal Broadband Fund, aiming to bring fiber to a large portion of the County.

TRANSITION TO E-TICKETING SYSTEM IN THE COMMUNITY PEACE OFFICER VEHICLE

The installation of the new E-Ticketing solution used by Alberta Law Enforcement into the Community Peace Officer vehicle was approved by Council, at a cost of \$7,500.

NEW HOME SUPPORT PROGRAM

Council enacted the Self-Directed Home Support program through Family and Community Support Services (FCSS), replacing the Home Support Services previously offered by the County. The program is available to any senior or disabled residents within the County.

FIRE SERVICES REVIEW

Administration was asked by Council to prepare a phased transition plan for the amalgamation of the Blueberry and Happy Valley fire districts, working closely with the Chief Officers and volunteers of the two departments.

2021 PROGRAM AND ACTIVITY GRANTS

Council approved the following grants to organizations:

- Grande Prairie Palliative Care Society - **\$10,000**
- Rycroft Municipal Library - **\$1,500**
- Savanna School - **\$10,000**
- Sexsmith Football Club - **\$1,500**
- Spirit River Regional Academy - **\$10,000**

2021 STRATEGIC PLAN

The updated Strategic Plan for 2021 was approved by Council at the February 23rd meeting, and is available both in the office and on our website. The plan sets out the guiding principles and long-term goals for the County and lets residents keep track of how their government works and what changes are proposed for the community.

CENTRAL PEACE REGIONAL WATER SYSTEM COLLABORATION

The municipalities in the Central Peace region, comprised of Saddle Hills County, Birch Hills County, the MD Spirit River #133, Town of Spirit River and the Village of Rycroft (known collectively as the G5) have been collaborating on a governance structure study and financial impact analysis in the event that a central potable water treatment plant is built to service the region, thus creating a regional potable water supply system.

TRANSFER STATION HOURS AND COLLECTION SITE LOCATIONS

BLUEBERRY TRANSFER STATION

SE 03-80-08-W6
(2 Miles South of the Old Blueberry Hall)

Wednesday and Saturday: 10am - 6pm
Oil Recycling Available

WOKING TRANSFER STATION

SW 18-76-05-W6
(Range Road 60, South of Woking)

Tuesday and Saturday: 10am - 6pm
Oil Recycling Available

BONANZA TRANSFER STATION

NW 33-79-12-W6
(East of Highway 719, on Township Road 800)

Tuesday - Saturday: 10am - 6pm
Oil Recycling Available

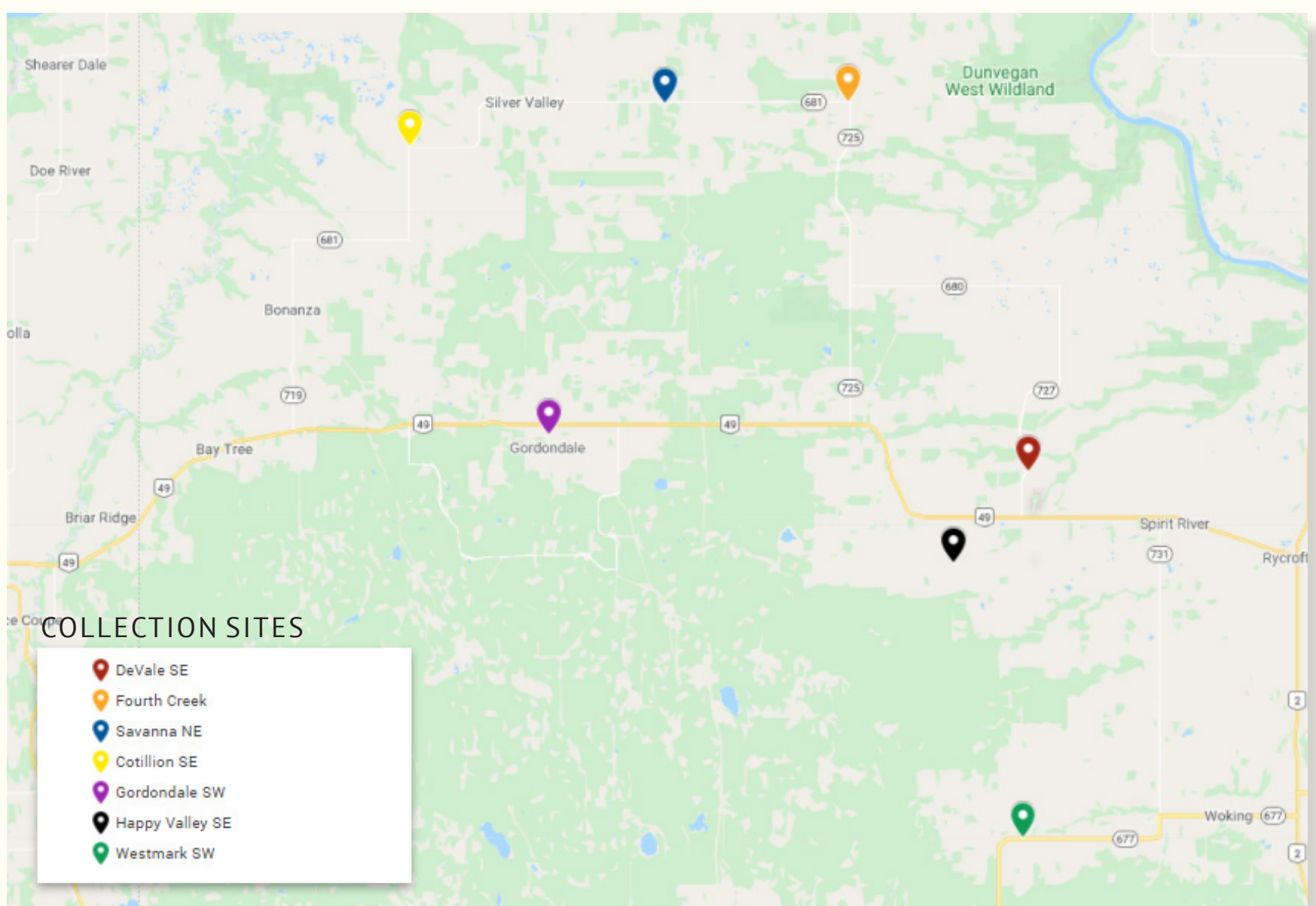
GUNDY TRANSFER STATION

SW 32-76-13-W6
(Northwest of Gundy Hall)

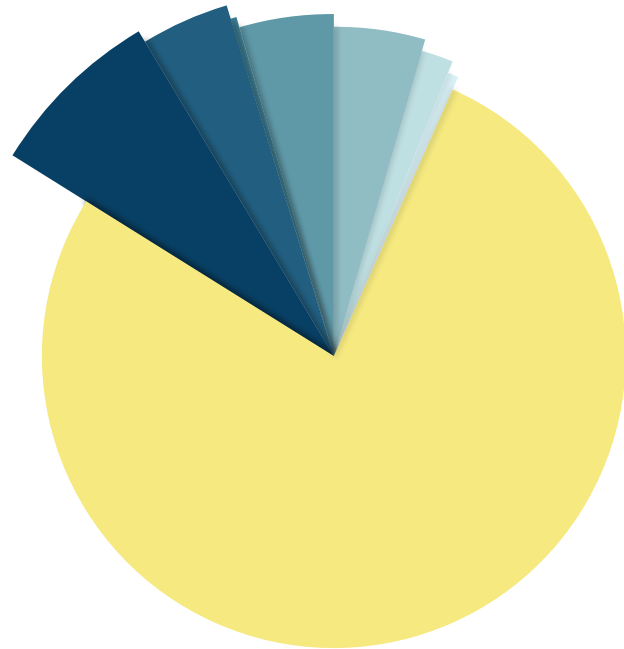
Saturday: 10am - 4pm PST (BC Time Zone)
No Oil Recycling Available

Our transfer stations offer opportunities for residents, business and industry to dispose of a variety of solid waste and recyclables for free plus a series of collection sites throughout the County provide the opportunity to dispose of solid waste and recyclables 24/7.

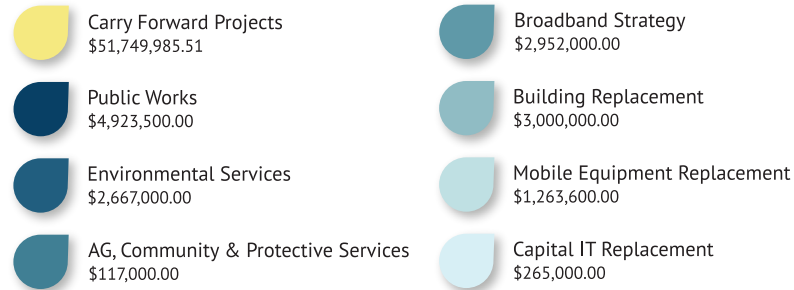
For fridge magnets to help remind you of our transfer station hours please contact the office or pull out and keep this page.



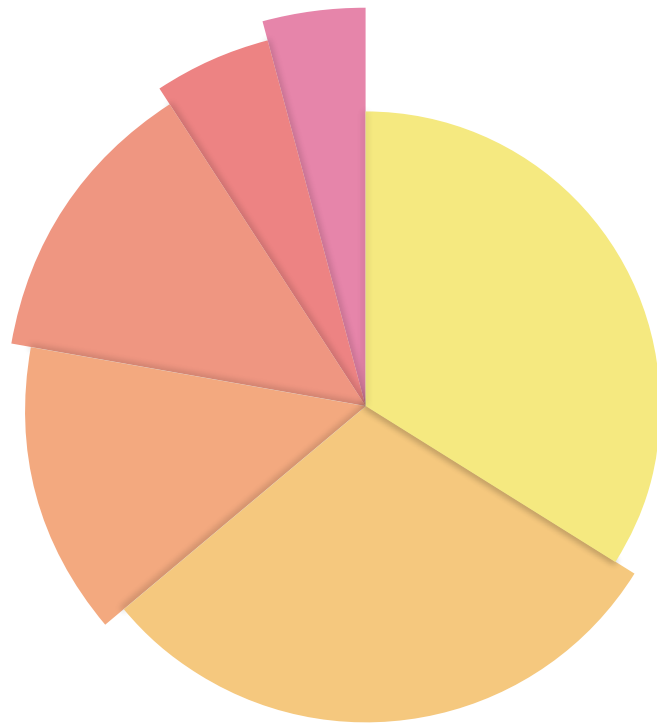
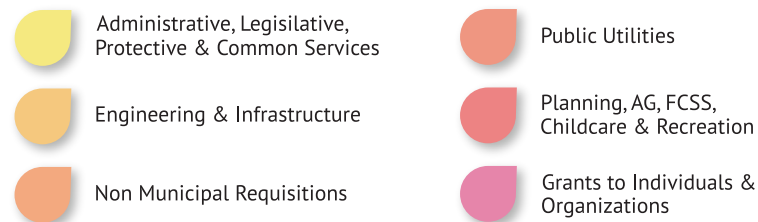
WHERE DOES YOUR MONEY GO?



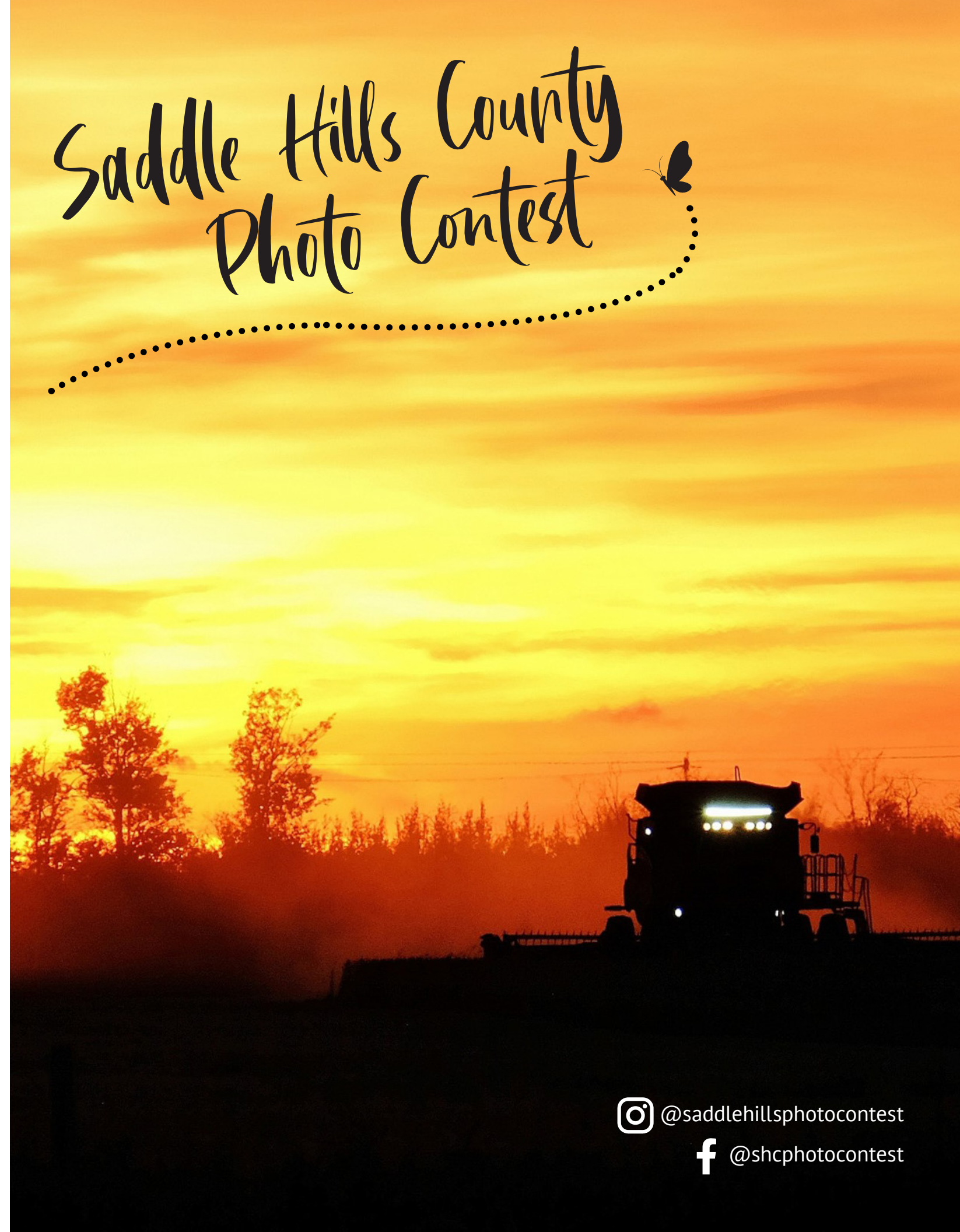
2021 CAPITAL PROJECTS



2021 OPERATING EXPENSES \$48,564,700



Saddle Hills County Photo Contest



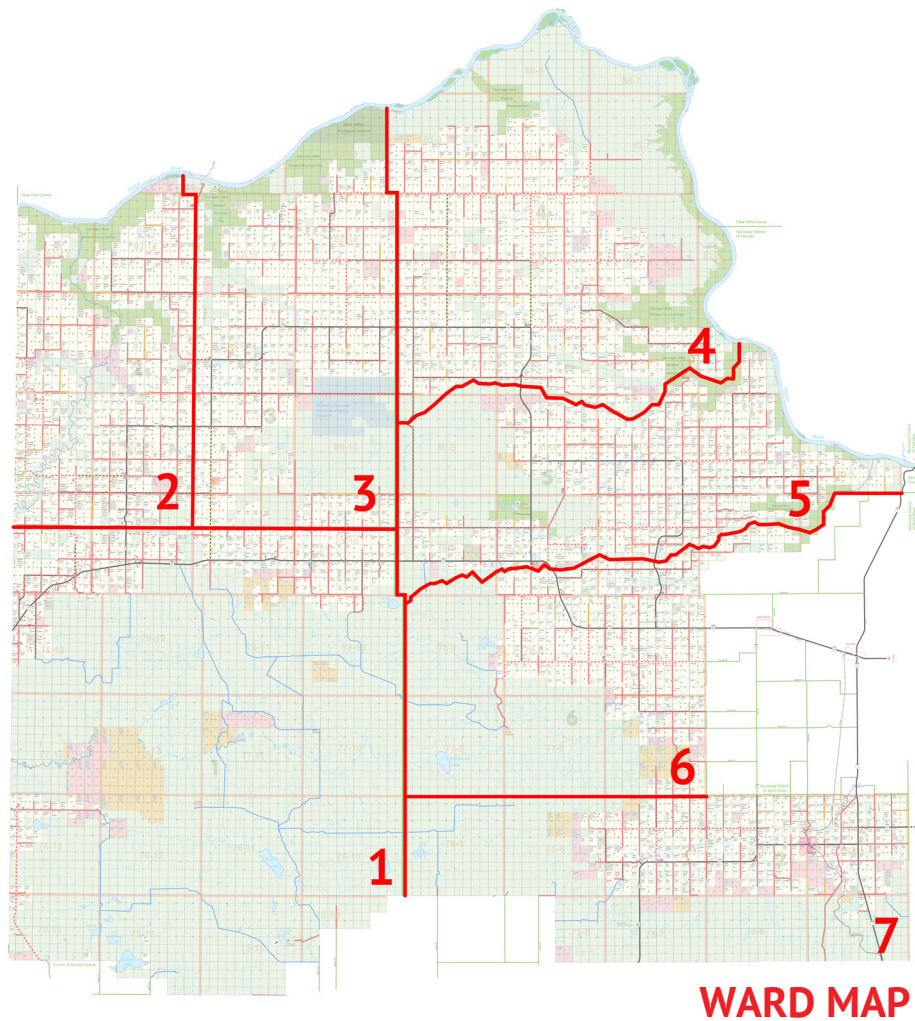
@saddlehillsphtocontest
 @shcphotocontest

2021 ELECTION SADDLE HILLS COUNTY

New for the 2021 Municipal Elections - the nomination period for receipt of Nomination Papers began January 1, 2021, with the final date for receipt of Nomination Papers being 12 noon on September 20, 2021 (Nomination Day).

Nomination forms and election information can be found on our website under *Our Community - News*. Completed forms should be submitted to the County office or emailed to tlapping@saddlehills.ab.ca.

Please make sure you have read through and familiarized yourself with all of the election information and requirements before submission and election day. We look forward to receiving your nominations!



* photograph courtesy of the Central Peace Signal



Josh Campbell - Gordondale Resident
(780) 864-9673 | bretonplumbing@gmail.com
[@bretonplumbing](https://www.instagram.com/bretonplumbing)

BONANZA STRUCTURE PLAN

At the December 12th 2020 Council meeting \$50,000 was added to this years operational budget to prepare an Area Structure Plan (ASP) for the Bonanza Area in order to protect residents' quality of life and to ensure economic growth happens with the full participation and inclusion of local residents and businesses in the process. ISL Engineering and Land Services Ltd. will be carrying out the plan, based on their familiarity with the area and previous experience working with the County.

The proposed plan will address the future development of an area consisting of 6,200 acres surrounding the community of Bonanza, the area to be confirmed with Council early in the planning process. The initial concerns to be addressed in the plan are the identification and protection of river and creek corridors exploring opportunities to promote the expansion of the community and enhance services to residents, exploring location opportunities for future country residential development, reviewing the potential implications of the consolidation of agricultural operations and exploring opportunities for future industrial or commercial development.

A live Q&A session is planned for May 27, 2021 at 6:30 pm to inform participants and provide an opportunity for them to ask questions. Please keep an eye on our County website and advertisements in the Central Peace Signal for further updates.

RURAL POTABLE WATER



As a continued part of our regional potable water initiative Council invites residents of Ksituan, Woking, Savanna, Bay Tree and Bonanza to express their interest for rural potable water delivered to their residence. These areas have been selected as a logical sequence to the County's existing rural water infrastructure. A rural potable water servicing agreement form is available at our website or through the County office.

There is no financial contribution required at the time of sign-up.

Maps of the areas included are available on our County website and in advertisements in the Central Peace Signal and our social media channels.

DARREN LUBECK - 780.864.3760 | DLUBECK@SADDLEHILLS.AB.CA



BRICE DALY

Brice Daly was appointed as Manager of Protective Services for Saddle Hills County in October of 2020. He brings with him many years of experience in Emergency Management and in the Fire Service both as a firefighter and as Chief of the Spirit River Fire Department (1999 – 2016) and Assistant Fire Chief for the Central Peace Fire Rescue Commission (2016 – 2021.) Brice served as a Field Officer and Trainer for the Alberta Emergency Management Agency (2005 – 2020) as well as serving as a Primary Care Paramedic (2000 – 2016). He began his public safety career as a volunteer firefighter with the Spirit River Volunteer Fire Department in 1985.

He says he is looking forward to working with Saddle Hills County's First Responders and Emergency Management personnel to provide a high standard of public safety services for Saddle Hills County residents.

TARYN McNAUGHT

Taryn McNaught has recently joined the County as our new Agricultural Foreman, replacing Riley Nooy who left us to continue his love of farming and travel. Taryn grew up in Saddle Hills County on a cattle ranch outside of Woking. She graduated from the University of Saskatchewan with a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Biology in 2020 and decided to pursue a career in agriculture after spending her summers as a student working in the industry, including as seasonal staff here at the County.

She is committed to working with Saddle Hills County agricultural producers to maintain the health and prosperity of our agricultural community and dedicated to sustaining a strong agriculture sector which contributes to the economic stability and the future of the County.



WELCOME TO THE COUNTY

SADDLE HILLS BUSINESSES ROCK

Saddle Hills County is a thriving rural community filled with incredible, talented business owners across a variety of industries. If you own a business in Saddle Hills County and would like to advertise with us, free of charge, please contact our Communications Coordinator at the County office on 780.864.3760, ext. 116, through social media or at communications@saddlehills.ab.ca.



BLOOM YOGA

(780) 814-3562
marissajaneh@gmail.com
[@bloomyoga11](https://www.instagram.com/bloomyoga11)



(780) 353-3055 | butterybites@gmail.com
www.butterybites.com
[@ButteryBitesCaramels](https://www.instagram.com/ButteryBitesCaramels)



81423 Range Rd 83. SHC, AB T0H 3G0
 780-864-5126 | thegoatpatch@gmail.com



BURNT RIVER RANCH

Westmark - 76235 Rg. Rd. 74, Woking, T0H 3V0
 (780) 296-4550
burntriverranching@hotmail.com
burntriverranching.wixsite.com | [@burntriverranching](https://www.instagram.com/burntriverranching)



Hwy 49, Bay Tree, AB T0H 0A0
 (780) 353-2485
breedave@hotmail.com



West of Woking, 76329 Hwy 731
 (780) 774-3838 | kaylareiman@live.ca
[@ChinookValley](https://www.chinookvalley.ca) | www.chinookvalley.ca



BAY TREE WOODWORKS

79526 Rge. Rd.131.
 Bay Tree AB T0H 0A0
 (780) 518-7469
baytreewoodworks@gmail.com



Potable Water Hauling
 Box 24. Bay Tree, AB T0H 0A0
 (780) 864-0950



13304 TWP 791.,
 Bay Tree Alberta T0H 0A0
 (604) 223-8341
rob@trayellaheavyduty.ca

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 780-351-3000



13117 Twp. Rd.. 790. Bay Tree
 Alberta, T0H 0A0
 250-784-7034
braatenjoanne@gmail.com



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Equine Team Building and Assisted Learning
 79048 RR #134. Bay Tree Alberta T0H 0A0
 2507848969 | battheforce@gmail.com



12309 Twp. Rd. 800.
 Bay Tree AB T0H 0A0
 (780) 742-9445

FAQ'S: ASK CHRISTINE



Christine Elliott is a long time beloved resident and employee of the County, manning our reception and phone lines and helping with all of our residents' questions and enquiries.

If you have a question Christine is always happy to help you find the answer!

WHAT ARE YOUR TRANSFER STATION HOURS?

As people ask this question a lot I have asked our team in the Communications department to provide a handy pull out and keep flyer for you, found in the centre of this newsletter.

WHERE CAN I GET A MAP OF THE COUNTY?

All of the County maps are available in hard copy with me, at the front desk, or online on our website under *Our Community - Maps*.

HOW DO I SET UP A POTABLE WATER ACCOUNT?

You can set up a secure prepaid Potable Water Account at the County Complex Monday through Friday, from 8:15 am to 4:30 pm. Once the account is active, we will give you a key fob, which will allow you to use the Truckfill stations. Once you have set up your account you can manage it remotely 24/7. If you need assistance setting up or managing your account give us a call or drop in and we'll be glad to help.

WHERE CAN I CAMP IN THE COUNTY?

The County has many beautiful campsites including Cotillion, Hilltop Lake, Moonshine Lake and Spring Lake campgrounds.

If you have a question you'd like Christine to answer please call us on 780.864.3760 or email communications@saddlehills.ab.ca and your question may be featured in the next issue.



HERE AT SADDLE HILLS COUNTY WE LOVE TO SUPPORT LOCAL TALENT

Do you have an amazing photograph or video of the County you'd like to share? Saddle hills County is now available on Instagram. Tag [@saddlehillscounty](https://www.instagram.com/saddlehillscounty) to have your work or business featured on our page.



Junction of Highway 49 and Highway 725, RR 1, Spirit River, Alberta, Canada, T0H 3G0

Phone: (780) 864-3760 | Fax: (780) 864-3904 | Toll Free: 1 (888) 864-3760

Monday to Friday 8:15 AM to 4:30 PM



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