

TOWN LIFE

Fall 2024



Town of
Stettler



403-742-8305

www.stettler.net

LETTER FROM MAYOR NOLLS



There is nothing quite like fall in Stettler, our beautiful tree-lined streets are a sight to see each year. While it may already feel like ages ago, I like to take this opportunity to look back on what came before, which in this case was a great summer packed to the brim with events and developments.

As always, we kicked off another great Music in the Park with The Jazz Guys - I may be biased, but our local talent always stands out! Soon after, our community's organizations came together to throw another amazing Canada Day celebration. I think our fireworks display is the best display on earth - but again, I may be biased. Both Heritage Days and Stettlerfest were new events to our community this year, successfully offering fun experiences to residents and visitors alike. It was particularly exciting to watch our Main Street come alive, and our business community come together with the Stettler Regional Board of Trade to celebrate our downtown core. Although September is always associated with back-to-school, the new September staple in Stettler is Alberta Culture Days!

This year we celebrated our Swiss heritage with delicious food, educational and entertaining workshops, and even some lederhosen and yodeling.

We had a busy construction season this year, with local improvements seen all through town. Large-scale projects include the resurfacing of the Stettler Airport runway, and pavement improvements along Highways 12 and 56. The private industry saw some changes this summer as well; we welcomed some new businesses to town and saw others make improvements to their properties and buildings. Last but not least, the Kinsmen and Kinnettes organized and led the revitalization of the Rosedale Playground. This is our community's first fully accessible play feature, and this inclusive space marks a new path forward in recreation that I am extremely proud of. In addition to all of the fun had this summer, so many of us rolled up our sleeves as a team and got a lot of work done. Stettlerites really do understand the definition of community.

We aren't done yet though; the busy holiday season is right around the corner, and that is where we really shine - and I'm not just talking about the Main Steet Tree. I wish you all the best heading into this new season, and thank you for being part of an incredible year. I have no doubt that we will finish 2024 on a high note together!



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2025 MUNICIPAL GENERAL ELECTION

Are you interested in running for Town Council? The nomination period for six Councillor positions and one Mayor position opens on January 2, 2025 for the 2025 Municipal General Election!

Members of Town Council have the opportunity to significantly influence the future of our community. The responsibilities of Town Council are exciting, challenging, and diverse! Including but not limited to:

- Regular meetings of Council
- Meetings of Council Committees
- Meetings of other boards and agencies on behalf of Town Council
- Conferences, conventions, seminars, and workshops for training, engagement, and discussion
- Social and other events promoting the interests of the Town of Stettler

Full details regarding the role of Members of Council, eligibility, and the election process can be found in the Town of Stettler Nomination Package, which will become available in Winter 2024.

The complete Nomination Forms will be received by a Returning Officer in person at the Town Office, 5031 - 50 Street, between the hours of 8:30AM and 4:30PM with the deadline of 12 Noon on September 22, 2025.

Important to Note

When is Nomination Day? *September 22, 2025*

When is the Election? *October 20, 2025*

What Positions are Available? *1 Mayor and 6 Councillors*

Who is Eligible to Run? *To be eligible for candidacy, you must be:*

- *At least 18 years of age on Nomination Day*
- *A Canadian Citizen*
- *A resident of the Town of Stettler for six (6) consecutive months preceding Nomination Day*



WHAT'S NEW AT THE TOWN OFFICE

Welcome Letters

New to Stettler? Check out our welcome letters for new residents by visiting <https://www.stettler.net/live/welcome-information>, or pick one up from the Town Office located at 5031 - 50 Street.

Waterworks Bylaw

We recently updated our Waterworks Bylaw which includes new deposit rates and rules for renters and landlords when creating a Town of Stettler utility account. For more information please visit <https://www.stettler.net/news/post/town-of-stettler-waterworks-bylaw-amended>.

Postal Code Changes

If you are a homeowner and have not updated your postal code with Alberta Land Titles, please do so by contacting them at 780-427-2742 or email lto@gov.ab.ca.

E-Billing For Taxes

The Town of Stettler is implementing electronic billing options for all tax related mail including the annual Combined Assessment & Tax Notices, along with all accounts receivable and utility related mail if you chose.

Why E-Bill?

- Receive mail instantaneously
- 24/7 available access
- Capable of sending to multiple addresses
- Environmentally friendly and cost saving
- Private and secure
- Easier to track and search on your device
- Able to download and print at any time



Email authorization forms have been sent to you in the mail! If you are interested in enrolling and have not received an email authorization form yet, please call the Town Office at 403-742-8305 or email townoffice@stettler.net.

You may return the completed form by email or in person at the Town Office Monday to Friday 8:30AM - 4:30PM. Please submit the completed form by April 4, 2025 to ensure you receive your 2025 Combined Assessment & Tax Notice by email!

Clean Energy Improvement Program

The Town of Stettler has partnered with Alberta Municipalities to launch our "CEIP" Program! Visit <https://www.stettler.net/live/clean-energy-improvement-program> for more information and <https://ceip.abmunis.ca/residential/locations/town-of-stettler/> to see if you qualify.

PHYSICIAN RECRUITMENT

Physician shortage is a widespread problem that, unfortunately, the Stettler area is all too familiar with. Recently, the Town of Stettler and County of Stettler partnered in committing to a financial incentive program to help attract new doctors to our area. Incentives range from \$50,000 to \$70,000 and are intended to help with the financial load of a new doctor relocating to Stettler and opening their practice. Under this incentive, physicians are required to practice family medicine and participate in the on-call rotation at the Stettler Hospital and Care Centre over a 5-year term. Incentives are widely supported within our community and throughout the local health sector with Stettler Health Foundation offering their own 2-year interest free \$100,000 loan for new eligible doctors.

“We are proud of this incentive as it gives us a competitive advantage over other municipalities throughout Alberta and Canada. In partnership with the County, and with assistance from local community members, we aim to make Stettler an attractive destination for physicians.”

Mayor Sean Nolls

Physician recruitment incentives are not a new concept and have been around for several years. In fact, the Town of Stettler previously had an incentive program which took place from 2005 to 2019 and aided in the recruitment of 13 doctors to our community. While the responsibility of supplying doctors sits on the shoulders of the Alberta Government, many municipalities are implementing or re-establishing similar incentive programs to gain a competitive edge in recruiting new physicians to their rural areas.

The Town of Stettler continues to work closely with our partners at the County and with local MLA, Honourable Nate Horner, to ensure Stettler can be successful in obtaining new physicians. This year through various meetings with Alberta Health Services and with the Minister of Health, Honourable Adriana LaGrange, we have successfully signed two new doctors who are gearing up to practice in Stettler in the new year and are actively engaging with other potential physicians. With help from the local organization, Stettler Needs Doctors, we have been actively advertising our community’s need for doctors and attending sessions with practicing residents in hopes of recruitment. It’s a long process for a non-resident doctor to get approved to work in Canada and Alberta and we are hopeful that getting in front of Albertan trained doctors will lead to more doctors coming to Stettler.

We recognize that the process of getting new doctors to Stettler is no small feat and will take time. Town of Stettler Council and senior administration are determined and will continue the conversations with the Alberta Government and Alberta Health Services on how to get doctors to Stettler faster and other ways we can ease the burden on our local healthcare system.

If you are currently looking for a family doctor please visit albertafindadoctor.ca for assistance and watch online for updates about doctors starting in Stettler soon.

If you are in need of an appointment with a physician for a non-emergent matter and do not have a family doctor you may want to check out the Rocket Doctor. This service allows you to meet with a doctor online, free of charge with your Alberta health care card number. Visit rocketdoctor.ca for more information and to book your appointment.

FIRE STATION TRAFFIC CONTROL SIGNALS

In a move to improve safety and efficiency, the Town of Stettler has purchased and installed new emergency vehicle traffic control signals adjacent to Fire Station 1 along 47 Avenue. This purchase was a part of the 2024 Town of Stettler Capital Budget and after three years of planning has finally come to fruition. Facilitation of the project planning and installation was completed by Town of Stettler Fire Chief Mark Dennis and Deputy Fire Chief Etienne Brugman.



These traffic signals are part of a broader effort to enhance road safety at Fire Station 1 and reduce response times for emergency services in and around our community. The traffic signals are designed to alert drivers and assign the right-of-way to emergency vehicles and ensure they have a clear and direct access to the road which allows them to respond more quickly to emergencies.

Unlike regular traffic signals, these signals can be installed at locations that do not meet typical traffic signal requirements, like the roadway or intersections near emergency service buildings. The signals operate by switching to a flashing red light when an emergency vehicle is approaching, indicating that all other vehicles need to stop, as they would at a standard red light traffic signal, to allow the emergency vehicles to pass safely. When not in use, the signals will be inactive to keep regular traffic flowing smoothly.

The Town of Stettler has funded this project with the mindset of prioritizing the safety of our firefighters and the protection of Station 1's apparatuses. We encourage drivers to familiarize themselves with these new signals and to always yield the right-of-way to emergency vehicles.

AS A REMINDER...

Our community fire fighters use green flashing lights on their dash when they are on route to the Fire Station in order to respond to an emergency. We appreciate you yielding to these vehicles or pulling to the side, allowing our volunteer fire fighters to get to the Fire Station and respond to an emergency quicker.

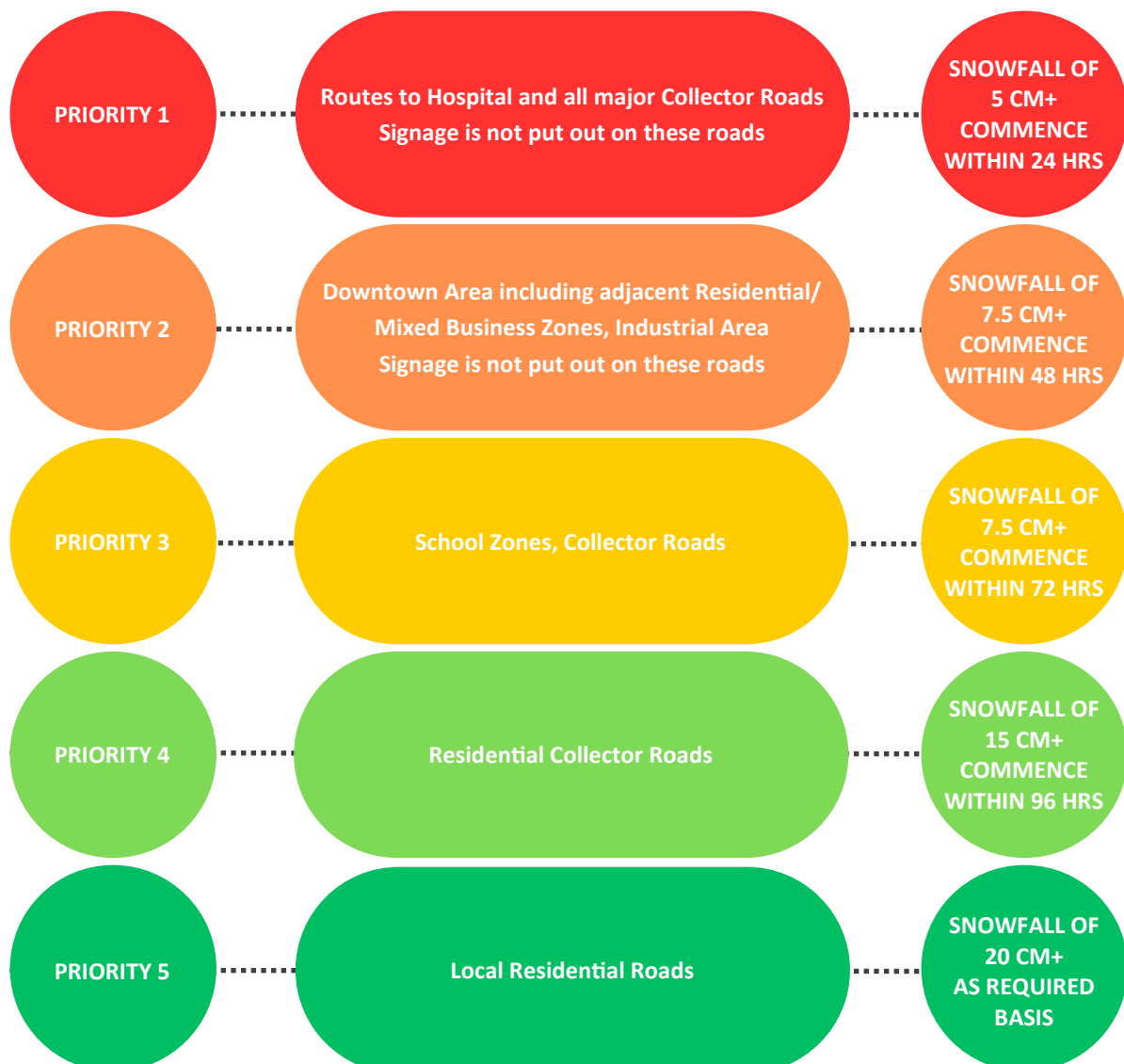


SNOW PLOWING

Stettler's snow and ice plan prioritizes maintaining safety, restoring mobility, providing well-maintained roadways, trails and sidewalks, and being accountable to our community. With 63 km of roads and over 52 km of sidewalks and trails, snow events of any size creates an all-hands-on-deck response to get Stettler moving.

The Town maintains all roads in town with the exception of Highways 12 and 56 which are managed by the province of Alberta. We use a colour coded route system to identify different types of streets and their priority for plowing and snow removal. It is our goal to clear roads to bare asphalt, weather dependent. Back alleys are not a part of the priority mapping and are cleared as required.

Aid us in clearing the streets of snow and ensure your vehicles are pulled off the road when we are in your area clearing snow. Please note, "NO PARKING" signs are placed 12 hours before scheduled snow removal. However, they are not placed on priority 1 and 2 routes because these routes are typically cleared in the days immediately following a snowfall. If you live or work adjacent to these routes, expect snow removal operations to occur the morning following a snowfall of 5 cm or greater. In the event of a large snowfall, this may take two consecutive mornings.



ICE CONTROL AND SIDEWALKS



Ice Control

Priority ratings for ice control vary slightly from snow removal to ensure that high volume traffic roads receive ice control first. The areas of first priority in town include the downtown area, schools, hospital routes, and commercial zones.

The Town of Stettler uses a salt and sand mixture, keeping the salt content as low as possible to prevent corrosion but to provide effective vehicle traction with enough salt to melt the ice. To view the ice control map please view <https://www.stettler.net/public/download/files/251601>.

Sidewalks and Trails

Sidewalk snow clearing is a shared responsibility between the Town, property owners, and occupants. The Town of Stettler is responsible for clearing the full pathway system and sections of sidewalk along Highways 12 and 56 which gets covered during highway snow removal. We are also responsible for clearing sidewalks bordering any town owned property, including sidewalk connections between homes and the greater pathway system. It is our goal to clear sidewalks and pathways down to asphalt, weather dependent.

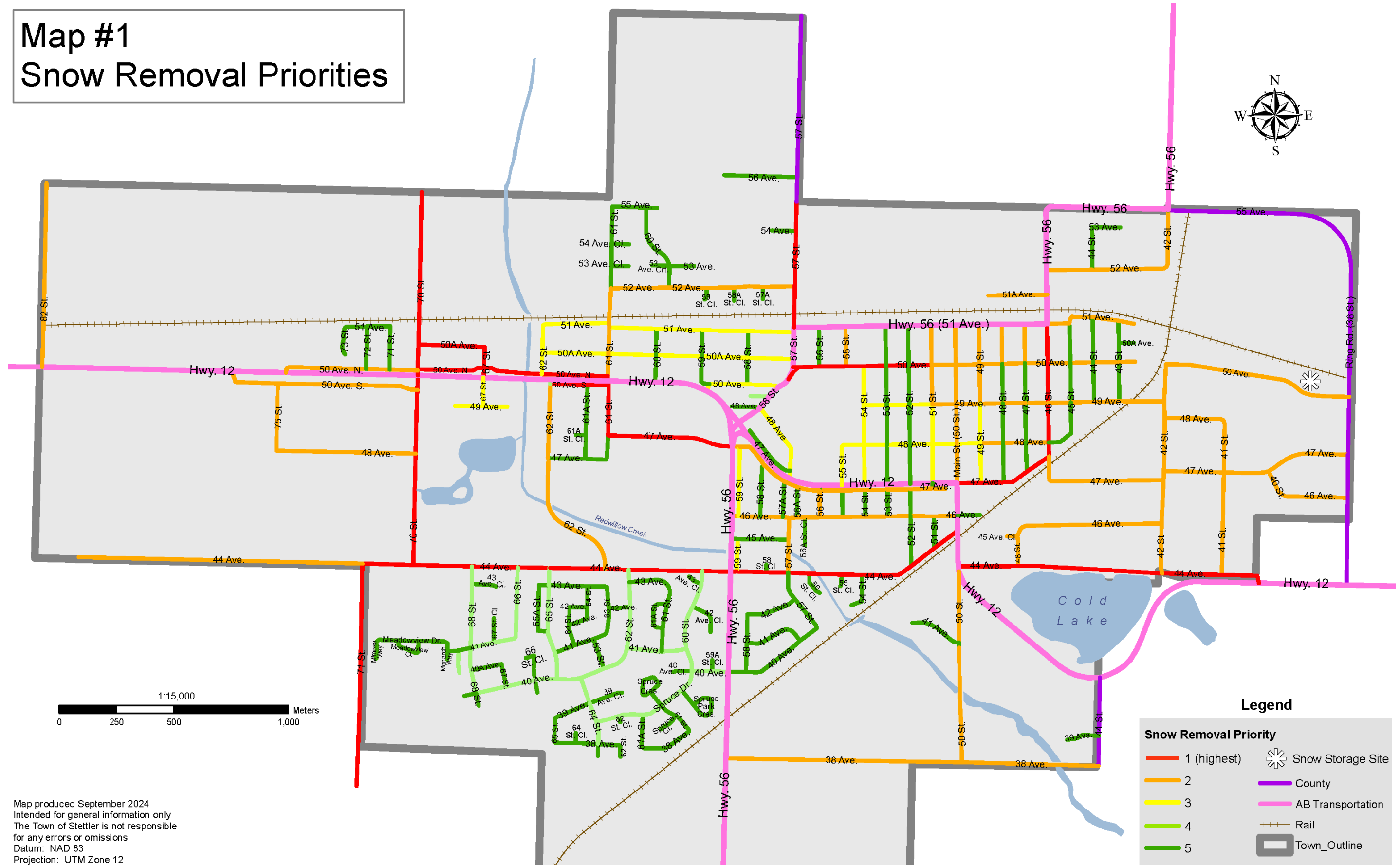
Winter in an Alberta town means everyone has to pitch in when snow falls. The Town of Stettler Traffic Bylaw 1941-06 requires property owners to clear their sidewalks adjacent to their properties within 48 hours of a snowfall ending. Please note that compliance with the bylaw is mandatory and property owners who fail to clear their sidewalks may be subject to a fine. For more information on this bylaw, visit our website at <https://www.stettler.net/public/download/files/215045>.



To keep up to date on snow clearing in your area please follow us on Facebook and watch for updates.

SNOW REMOVAL MAP

Map #1
Snow Removal Priorities



HOUSING ASSESSMENT RESULTS

In 2024, through the Capital Budget, the Town of Stettler contracted bassa Social Innovations to complete a Housing Assessment and Housing Strategy. The document revealed four priority actions and strategies which are unique to Stettler and the needs identified through data analysis and community insights.

- 1 Incentivizing infill and new housing developments**
- 2 Supporting sustainable and affordable housing models**
- 3 Addressing community, transitional, and emergency housing needs**
- 4 Promoting diversity in local housing options**

The Housing Assessment and Housing Strategy document is intended to help guide new initiatives and support the community's applications for provincial and federal resources when they are available to us.

Specifically related to municipal roles in housing, the Town of Stettler is primarily, as well as legislatively, responsible for land use planning, development licensing and permitting, and policy development. Increasingly, access to provincial and federal dollars are requiring deeper commitments from municipalities including tax incentives, provision of land, inclusive zoning, and other investments. To be approved for funding, new projects need to be investment ready - meaning that land, designs, developers, and operations are in place and committed.

The Town of Stettler is committed to utilizing the results and recommendations from the Housing Assessment and Housing Strategy and will continue to find solutions through the Economic Development Committee.



CHANGES TO PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS

This fall and early winter, the remaining standard pedestrian crossings along Highways 12 and 56 will be replaced with modernized LED rapid flash warning systems. This project has been funded by the Government of Alberta through Transportation and Economic Corridors with Town of Stettler staff completing the implementation. We look forward to seeing this pedestrian safety project completed in our community. The four sites being replaced are shown below in red:



Old Pedestrian Crossing Lights



New Pedestrian Crossing Lights



RECREATION CENTRE UPGRADES

Stettler Imperials games have been the talk of the town and the place to be since their inaugural season three years ago. The team has found success both on and off the ice and assist numerous non-profit organizations in our community through their 50/50 program.

As a result of the team's success, discussions have taken place between the Town of Stettler and the Stettler Imperials Senior Hockey Team in regards to various facility enhancements designed to improve both patron and player experience during Imperials hockey games and practices. The Stettler Imperials have identified three SRC upgrades that were recently given Council approval that the team is preparing to fund. These upgrades will be a planned capital expenditure through the Stettler Imperials Senior Hockey Club and at no direct financial cost to the Town of Stettler. More importantly, each of these projects will assist the Imperials during their home games and events and provide additional benefit to the facility and other user groups.

1 Dressing Room 1 Upgrades

Dressing room one changes are well underway with professional dressing room stalls being installed, featuring a seat and side wall system with an upper shelf and hooks to be used by the Imperials and any other group/team as part of the normal SRC dressing room scheduling. The room will also see an updated paint scheme to tie in with existing facility colours and Stettler Imperials colours.



2 Special Effect Lighting

Specific to the Blue Arena, several spotlights and special effect lighting controls will be mounted in the ceiling to enhance ceremonies, pregame events, and in game entertainment. Due to the programming and knowledge needed to operate, however, this system will likely only be used for Imperials games and special events and not on a day to day basis.

3 Upgrades to Meeting Rooms

During Imperials home games, the two meeting rooms upstairs are used as a private booking. These rooms will soon see dimmable lights - an upgrade to the current on or off option which will add to the atmosphere during game nights. Other user groups will be able to take advantage of this dimmable recessed lighting when renting the meeting rooms for their events. In addition, the Town of Stettler and the Imperials have partnered on the purchase of new windows for each of the upstairs meeting rooms that will allow a top portion of the window to be opened up to the ice surface bringing more of the game action sound into the two rooms.

AIRPORT RUNWAY IMPROVEMENTS

This fall, the Stettler Airport has seen major improvements with the resurfacing of the asphalt runway. The runway is original to 1976 and was partially reconstructed in 1988 and while it has seen yearly maintenance to keep it operational, it was time for a full resurface. The Town of Stettler partnered with the County of Stettler in securing a grant for \$1,481,947.50 from the Alberta Government that covered 75% of the cost of the project with the County and Town each pitching \$250,000 to cover the remaining costs.

Central City Asphalt was awarded the project with the goal to have the runway closed for the smallest timeframe possible. The project started mid September and wrapped up at the end of October with minor landscaping to be completed in the coming spring.

Stettler Airport sees an average of 1500 flights annually. These flights range from recreational use, agricultural use, visitors coming to Stettler for business, and so much more, all of which help support our local commerce. In addition to the uses listed above, our airport is paramount in supporting the use of medivac planes in our region. Medivac planes are used on a regular basis to help transfer patients in and out of our community with specific health needs and unlike helicopters, they cannot land at the Stettler Hospital and Care Centre. We are happy to see this project concluded and hope that our local and visiting pilots enjoy the improved performance this surface will offer.



ROSEDALE PLAYGROUND

Stettler's northside neighborhood of Rosedale looks a little different heading into the winter months after the local Kin Clubs have nearly wrapped up a playground revitalization project located on the corner of 50A Avenue and 60 Street.

Kin representatives, along with Parks and Leisure Services staff, worked with BDI Designs to establish a vision and design for the playground. While the last two months were busy with different teams removing old equipment, prepping the ground, and constructing the new playground equipment, the planning and fundraising efforts started many months beforehand. The playground build itself was scheduled over three days and was an aggressive and lofty amount of work in the small time frame but with help from BDI Play Systems and the numerous community volunteers the build was completed in record time!

“By the time this project wraps up with grass seed and trees in the spring of 2025 it will mark more than two years that our Kinsmen and Kinette Clubs have focused on this project.”

Kirk Blake, Kinsmen Club President



The overall design for this playground was built around inclusion. Kinsmen Club President, Kirk Blake, indicated, “the choice to make the playground equipment, as well as the park as a whole, as accessible as possible for people with mobility issues was an easy one. The extra costs to do so weren’t even considered a barrier as an accessible park was needed for our community.” At this playground you’ll find a wheel chair accessible ramp to access a portion of the playground equipment and a large harnessed swing, among many other features that allow individuals with mobility challenges to participate in play throughout the structure.



ROSEDALE PLAYGROUND



When the landscaping and finishing work is completed this coming spring, the cost of the playground revitalization project will end up around \$350,000 which is made up of cash contributions, grants, sponsorships, and a significant amount of community in kind donations for work needed as part of the structure build.

“We received funding support, not only from the provincial and municipal governments, but the community; corporate and private donations were overwhelming!”

Kirk Blake, Kinsmen Club President



Projects like this take not only a significant amount of funding to complete, but more importantly, is the amount of volunteers that are needed to build a park structure of this size. Volunteers for this project ranged from individuals just looking to help and give back to the community, to local businesses sending teams of their staff over to the project site to assist with the build.

The park is open for users to enjoy over the winter months, however, plans for an official grand opening will take place sometime in the spring after the remaining landscaping and other finishing touches are complete.

Local service clubs have always played a significant role in the development of our community and have taken the lead on numerous projects. As a result, service clubs are always looking for new members to come on board. The Kin Clubs specifically have put significant time and energy into the development of our local community playgrounds as one of their flagship fundraising projects and are always seeking new members to join the clubs. Blake noted that, “our Kinsmen and Kinette Clubs are currently sitting at 8 and 14 members respectively, and while we are able to achieve mighty goals like this park with the members we have, we are always open to new members joining our clubs for, not only community service but also for the fellowship that our clubs focus on.”



Holiday Events

Moonlight Madness - November 29

Gather with family and friends to kick off the holiday season with the annual Tree Light Up on Main Street happening at 6PM! Visit with Santa, enjoy tons of shopping specials, and indulge in the treats and entertainment offered by many businesses along Main Street and throughout Town. This can't miss event is sure to get everyone in the holiday spirit.



Light the Night - December 6 - 7, 13 - 14, 20 - 21, 23 - 24

Head down to the Museum every Friday and Saturday evening in December leading up to Christmas to check out 1/2 km of lights set up by local businesses and volunteers.

Elevator to the North Pole - December 6 - 7, 13 - 14, 20 - 21, 23 - 24

Experience an elevator like no other, jump in and travel all the way from the Stettler Town & Country Museum through the clouds to the North Pole! Santa sent us a letter saying he'd love to see you in person on the special nights of December 6, 14 and 23.

Gingerbread House Competition - December 14

Find your icing bag, pull out the jube jubes, peel the peppermints, and crack the candy canes, it's time to make your gingerbread house! Drop off your gingerbread creation to the Stettler Town & Country Museum by December 14 to compete in this annual competition! Contest open to all ages, businesses, and groups, voting will take place inside during Light the Night and will be \$1 a vote.



Skate with Santa - December 23


Join in on the fun at the Stettler Recreation Centre with games, prizes, hot chocolate and more! Put your skates on or come in your boots and enjoy a visit with Santa on the ice.

Night Before Night Before - December 23

An annual Stettler tradition which includes store sales, late night shopping, and entertainment for all to enjoy, it's the kick off to Christmas holidays for many.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

November



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| Stettler Farmers' Market | November 9 |
| H.A.T.S Presents: SELF HELP: An Adult Comedy | November 13 - 16 |
| United Church Artisan Christmas Market | November 16 |
| Stettler Public Library Wine Survivor Fundraiser Deadline | November 20 |
| Stettler Farmers' Market | November 23 |
| Stettler Festival of Lights: ATCO Pancake Breakfast | November 26 |
| Stettler Festival of Lights: Christmas Spirits | November 26 |
| Stettler Festival of Lights: Seniors Tea | November 27 |
| Stettler Festival of Lights: Art & Cheer | November 27 |
| Stettler Festival of Lights: Canalta A&W Burgers & Beer | November 28 |
| Stettler Festival of Lights: Holly Jolly Lunch | November 29 |
| Stettler Festival of Lights: Hawaiian Luau Dinner, Dance & Auction | November 30 |

December

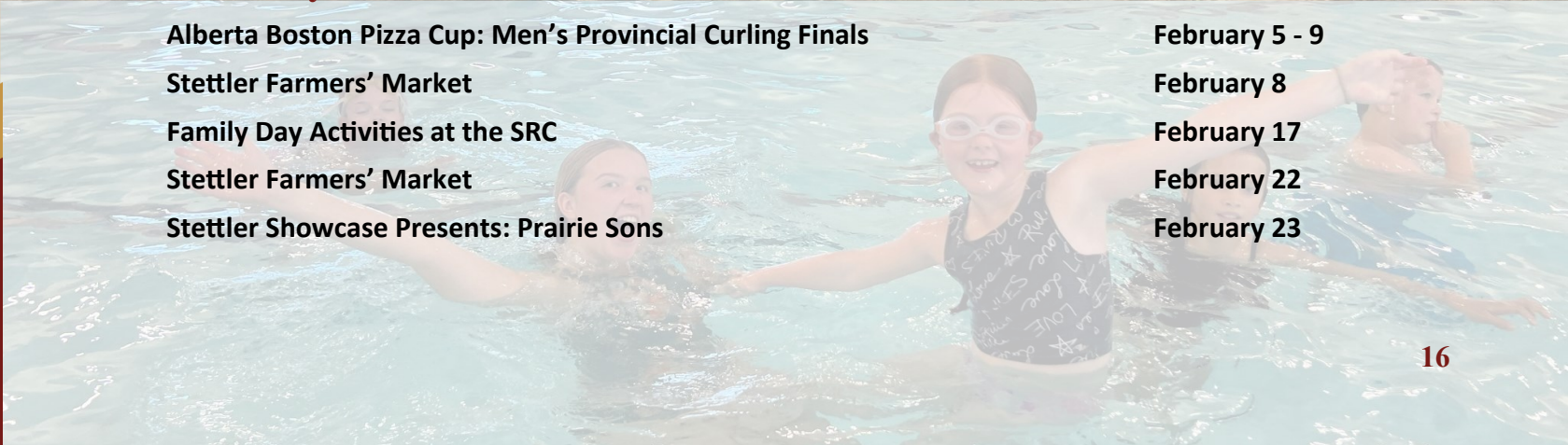


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| Stettler Christmas Market at the Agriplex | December 13 - 14 |
| Gear Up Christmas Gala | December 14 |
| Stettler Farmers' Market | December 21 |
| Stettler Hospice Hosts: Christmas Variety Showcase | December 23 |
| New Year's Eve Family Celebration at the Museum | December 31 |

January

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| Stettler Showcase Presents: Over the Moon | January 19 |
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February



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|---|----------------|
| Alberta Boston Pizza Cup: Men's Provincial Curling Finals | February 5 - 9 |
| Stettler Farmers' Market | February 8 |
| Family Day Activities at the SRC | February 17 |
| Stettler Farmers' Market | February 22 |
| Stettler Showcase Presents: Prairie Sons | February 23 |

PHOTO CONTEST



Town Life Photo Contest Winner Photo Taken and Submitted by Moneth Jonson

Send in your photo to townoffice@stettler.net

Deadline: February 28, 2025

1st place: \$100 Heart of Alberta Dollars

2nd place: \$100 Heart of Alberta Dollars

3rd place: \$100 Heart of Alberta Dollars

Eligibility

The photo contest is open to all amateur and professional photographers. There is no limit to how many entries a contestant can submit. All photos must be taken within the Town of Stettler. Photos will be judged on Facebook. Photographs must be submitted electronically in the highest quality available. Photos must be taken by the entrant, be original and unpublished.

Consent

By submitting your photo you give consent that it can be used by the Town of Stettler and affiliate organizations for promotional and advertising purposes. The Town of Stettler and affiliate organizations will not sell the photos or use the photos to make a profit. Photo credit will be given to the photographer.