



Your Monthly Newsletter for October 2023

Big Lakes Connections

ISSUE #62

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Big Lakes County Department Highlights

As the seasons change and our community continues to thrive, we're excited to bring you a fresh dose of news and updates that matter most to our residents. From upcoming events to local highlights, and valuable resources, this newsletter is your window into the heart of our vibrant community!

Seeking Member-at-large Appointments

Big Lakes County Council annually seeks interest from individuals to be part of various boards and committees to serve our public. This year, Council seeks individuals with interest and expertise in the following areas:

- * Municipal Planning Commission
- * Intermunicipal Subdivision & Development Appeal Board
- * Big Lakes County Library Board
- * Assessment Review Board
- * High Prairie Airport Advisory Committee

Appointments will be made during the Organizational meeting scheduled for Tuesday, October 24, 2023 @ 10:00 a.m.

Additional information can be found by visiting our website at www.biglakescounty.ca or by contacting our office at 780-523-5955. Application deadline is Friday, October 13, 2023 @ 4:00 p.m.

Public Works

Waterline Flushing

The Utility Department will be flushing water lines in all of the Hamlets starting Monday, October 10, 2023. Customers may experience low water pressure and/or discoloured water. If discolouring occurs, let the water run until its natural clarity before consuming. Questions or concerns may be directed to the Utility Department at the County Administration office at 780-523-5955.

Snowplowing Agreements

The County is currently accepting applications for private driveway snowplowing for County residents for the 2023/24 winter season. For rates and agreements, visit our website.

Operating & Capital Grant Deadline

Attention Community Organizations! Have you applied for the Capital and Operating Grants? Applications are due October 31 of each year. Visit our website or call our Grants Officer for more information about this funding program.

Dog Adoption Program

Are you ready to add a loyal companion to your life? Look no further! Our Dog Adoption Program is here to match you with your perfect four-legged friend. For more information, contact our Animal Care & Control Officer or visit our website.

FCSS

Big Lakes Christmas Angels

Each year, the Big Lakes Christmas Angels provide Christmas hampers to qualifying County residents to help bring joy during the holiday season.

Mark Your Calenders

OCT 09 Thanksgiving (office closed)

OCT 11 Regular Council Meeting

OCT 24 Organizational Meeting

OCT 25 Municipal Planning Commission Meeting

OCT 25 Regular Council Meeting

These hampers include the fixings for a turkey dinner, cereal, and a wrapped gift for children under the age of 16 that reside with the applicant. If you need a little help this Christmas, please apply now! The forms will be available at all Big Lakes County FCSS offices beginning October 2nd.

The Christmas Angels program is 100% funded by generous residents and businesses, and we are once again requesting monetary donations to purchase the groceries and toys for our hampers. If you would like to be a part of this amazing program, donations are accepted at all County FCSS offices, and Administration offices.

Big Lakes County Agri-News

Your monthly agricultural news brought to you by Big Lakes County's Agricultural Department. Happy Harvest! With fall coming down on us quickly, we would like to remind everyone that it's also harvest season. While farmers try and avoid busy roads, sometimes it's unavoidable. Please be patient when coming across slow-moving equipment on the roads. Leave space between vehicles, ensure it is clear to pass before doing so, and always keep an eye out for hazard signs and wide load banners.

There are 2 Agriculture information events coming up this fall. We will be working with SARDA to hold a Winter Agro-nomic Update on November 30th at Triangle Hall. We have also rescheduled our Forest Grazing Workshop with PCBFA with a new date of November 10th hosted at the Triangle Hall. The event was originally set for September and was postponed due to the early harvest conditions.

A big thanks also goes out to Lesser Slave Watershed Council for managing our ALUS program this year! The County will be back to managing the program in 2024.

Our Shelterbelt Program is up and running again. This year we have changed the order date to run from September 1 - December 31. If you would like trees for the spring of 2024, the order forms are available on our website.

Please contact our Agricultural Services Manager with all your Ag-related questions.

Winter Hours

Transfer Station winter hours
October 1 - March 30

Big Lakes County Transfer Stations are open Wednesday & Sunday from 11 am to 6 pm.

The Regional Landfill is open Monday, Thursday & Saturday from 10 am to 5 pm.

Please Note: Transfer Stations are closed Christmas day. The Regional Landfill is closed Christmas day, Boxing Day, New Years Day, and Easter Sunday.

Reminders

Help keep our County clean by properly securing your load and bringing your waste to a Transfer Station or Regional Landfill.

If caught illegally dumping waste, residents can face fines. If you witness someone dumping illegally, write down as much information as you can and report it to Big Lakes County.

REMINDER: Please be respectful of our waste facilities and operators!



Fire Prevention Week

October 8-14 is Fire Prevention Week and this year's topic is "Cooking Safety Starts with you, Pay attention to Fire Prevention". Cooking fires are the leading cause of home fires and home fire injuries and unattended cooking is the leading cause of cooking fires and deaths.

Here are a few quick tips to help you keep your family safe:

- * Turn pot handles toward the back of the stove and always keep a lid nearby when cooking (slide the lid over the pan and turn the burner off if a small grease fire starts).
- * Watch what you heat and set a timer to remind you that you are cooking.
- * Have a kid free zone of at least 3 feet around the stove.

Stay tuned to the Big Lakes County and your local social media pages to find out what fire prevention activities will be happening in your area over Fire Prevention Week (FPW).

To find out more about FPW programs and activities in the County, contact our Deputy Fire Chief Luci Martinson at deputyfirechief@biglakescounty.ca. For more general information about Fire Prevention Week and cooking safety, visit www.fpw.org. For fire safety fun for kids, visit sparky.org.

REMEMBER! Cooking safety starts with you, a cooking fire can spread quickly, and we have seen many homes damaged and people injured by fires that could have easily been prevented. Please do your part to help keep our community safe!