

2017.09.18 Newsletter by M.D. of Foothills Councillor Suzanne Oel

Dear Residents,

Thank you for your support! I will continue to represent you in Division 4

On Monday September 18, 2017, I submitted my Nomination papers to the MD of Foothills in order to seek re-election as your local municipal councillor. As I was uncontested, I am considered “acclaimed” in Division 4. I would like to sincerely thank you for your support and I look forward to serving you from 2017-2021.

Over the past 7 years, I have enjoyed getting to know many of you as we have worked together to find solutions to challenges and worked on opportunities to make our community a great place to live. In partnership with you, it is my privilege to continue working hard for you on the many projects currently underway and the new ones that will emerge.

For more details about my election priorities, please visit my website:

[Municipal Election 2017 - Q & A](#) (link)

[Election Priorities Article](#) (link to pdf 372KB)

[MD Foothills - Election Nomination List](#) (link)

Event: Rothney Astrophysical Observatory – Howdy Neighbour BBQ

On Thursday, September 21, 2017, the Rothney Astrophysical Observatory will be hosting their “Howdy Neighbour” BBQ from 5-9 pm. Click here for their RAO website & poster ([link](#)).

Event: HCRCWA – meet new TV RCMP Staff Sgt. Dwayne Helgeson on 25th

On Monday, September 25, 2017, the High Country Rural Crime Watch Association invites you to meet the new Staff Sergeant for our Turner Valley RCMP Detachment. Join us at 7 pm at the Priddis Hall for an introduction to Sgt. Dwayne Helgeson with a Q & A to follow.

Event: Bear Spray Training & Wildlife Mitigation Workshop

Join us on Thursday, October 12th, 7 pm at the Priddis Community Hall.

Due to ongoing interactions with multiple species of wildlife in our area and an interest to discuss coexistence and mitigation, we are hosting this information session, free of charge, to learn about:

- Using bear spray effectively (training provided at the start, 7pm)
- Multiple species of wildlife: bears, cougars, wolves, coyotes, elk, deer, wild horses, skunks, rats, moose, etc...
- How to reduce conflict and encounters
- What to do if you have an encounter
- Coexistence and Mitigation strategies

Session presentations by: MD of Foothills Ag Services, Wildlife-Human Conflict Biologist (Alberta Environment & Parks) & Margo Supplies. Question & Answer to follow. Bear spray & other supplies will be available for purchase.

Please RSVP to join us for this event, free of charge! If you have questions about problem animals or issues, please bring your questions to the event. RSVP & info: contact Suzanne at 403.931.2711 or reply to my email :-)

Event: Get into Farming

You can attend this full-day info session on Thursday, October 26, 2017, in Airdrie.

Registration: 1.800.387.6030; \$25/person

Learn about: Ag overview, business planning, personal assessment, financial, land and resources

See the [Get into farming event poster](#) on my home page...

Highway 762 Construction Update

2017.09 News: Alberta Transportation continues major repair work to the 4 slide areas. The work involves numerous cement piles, retaining wall construction, drainage improvements, toe berms, and some Hwy realignment around the S-curves. The contractor (Bowmark) plans to continue work as weather allows to the end of 2017 and finish off in 2018, including a completion of the final overlay. Recently heard that the approximate cost of this project is \$11M.

River Hazard & Flood Mapping info – Priddis & Fish Creeks

2017-09 News: Gov of AB has given [notice of the Priddis Area River Hazard & Flood Mapping Project](#) (link), a municipal, provincial, federal partnership - with the goal to mitigate flood damages. Click here for the [GoA website](#) (link). Surveyors will be in the Priddis area collecting data for this study on 30 kms of Fish Creek & 15 kms of Priddis Creek, starting in September 2017. This study will replace the old provincial flood mapping and add more kms to the data base. It will show floodway, flood fringe and scenarios with inundation projections to help with development planning and inform disaster compensation for flood events.

Dark Sky Country Signage Project

Our 2017 Dark Sky Country signage project is under way. Look for these NEW signs in Div. 4 soon! With our partners Rothney Astrophysical Observatory & Cross Conservation Area, our Dark Sky Committee would like to create awareness about Dark Skies in a friendly manner and lead people to more information. We hope they will see the value of preserving the operations of these world-class organizations and participate in reducing light pollution, which will also help with the over-all health of our own connected neighboring landscapes and allow us to continue to view the stars from our own back yards, which is part of the enjoyment of country living! When more people are made aware through this Dark Sky Country initiative, we can take action together to preserve our night skies. More soon...

Recycling & Garbage Services in Division 4 – RR & T&T

NEW in 2017 – Do-it-yourself Recycling Option:

Range Recycling has been granted the opportunity to offer residents who use the Priddis Waste Transfer Station a location to drop off their household recycling materials. The program accepts the same materials accepted in the recycling depots located in Calgary. Residents can purchase bags online at Rangerecycling.ca and collect the bags at the Priddis Waste Transfer Station. This is a no-sort system that have all materials placed together in single use bags and dropped off in their bin located onsite. For more information, call 403-681-3942 or click on the [Priddis Recycling Depot tab](#) (link) to see how to use the program. Please note that this program is run solely through Range Recycling and all inquiries should be directed to Range Recycling. RR also has pick-up service – see their website for more on that.

Pick-up Service Option:

For pick-up from your home - see details about [T&T Disposal Services 'garbage and recycling'](#) (link) on their website.

Fish Creek Ranch Water Bulk-Fill Station under repair

At the end of August 2017, the Fish Creek Ranch bulk-fill water station was vandalized. The main parts of the external card-reader components were all stolen and this is not an easy fix. The intention is to get this repaired asap. MD of Foothills staff have evaluated and ordered the needed parts. There is a wait time, since these are quite specific custom parts. It was forecast to take 2-3 weeks to get them in, as of Sept 8, so hopefully parts will be received and repairs made as of the publishing of this news article... The MD will also be looking into some prevention measures as they realize this is an essential service for some residents in need of water. Sorry for any inconvenience. They are doing their best to get this up and running again asap.

Foothills Regional 911 Call Centre is moving to Okotoks

Our Foothills Regional 911 Call Centre will soon be moving to a new location. We have been planning this for over a year and are currently purchasing and setting up equipment to be ready for the move in October 2017. We have outgrown the space we have been using for the past 23 years and are planning the new site to include room for expansion, due to the growth we expect to see in services we provide. In our new location, we will have access to fiber optic cable, new phone lines, be AFFRCS ready (new provincial radio system) and be able to provide Nex Gen 911 with our IP-based system, which will include texting and the ability to send photos or videos to first responders. Foothills 911 serves a population of about 130,000 people in 26 municipalities in Southern AB. In addition to providing 911 Call-Answer (police, fire, EMS) and Fire Dispatch to 32 Fire Stations, we also have a growing peace officer monitoring component, work alone monitoring, deal with municipal complaints and emergency answers for some communities, and send out messages through SCAN, the Safe Communities Alert Network. The Black Diamond location will still be used as a backup centre. We appreciate the provincial 911 Grant funding that has contributed to this effort.

Foothills 911 will have access to state-of-the-art technology, but this move won't change how 911 operates. To update you on matters recently in the news, we are still dealing with the delays associated with EMS dispatch being forwarded to another centre in Calgary. We are hoping that the Province and AHS can provide a technical solution, as has been done in other 911 Centres, that will help to reduce the on-going delay problems. By setting up a CAD to CAD interface (computer-aided dispatch), so their computer talks to our computer, there would be a more immediate transfer of information on medical calls requiring a fire first response – so we could dispatch fire more quickly when an ambulance can't get there quickly. They have not yet moved forward on this solution, but we hope there will soon be something positive to report on this topic.

Road Construction

- With the warm weather this summer, the MD has been able to make great progress on many road repairs, maintenance and dust control surfaces in Div. 4.
- As you know, construction on the SW Calgary Ring Road and Service Road are moving ahead on Highway 22X. The current eastbound lanes will become the service road and a new section being built in the middle will become the new eastbound lanes. If you want to see what it will look like, you can download a [PDF map of the road shift](#) from my website (2MB)
- If you want to find out more about the SWCRR construction details, you can check out this [link](#).

“Share the Road” Campaign

As always during the summer months, Road Safety is a hot topic. In an effort to respond to concerns and bring awareness to residents, both motorists and cyclists, the MD of Foothills Protective Services has created a brochure to get discussions going and provide some educational information. In addition to this campaign, MD Peace Officers and RCMP continue to respond to complaints about this issue. You can see the [“Share the Road” Brochure PDF](#) on the MD's website.

New Postal Addresses in 2017

Some of us in Division 4 are getting new Canada Post addresses this fall. We have been given a year of mail-forwarding, but just a reminder that you should include the MD of Foothills in your “address change” list. Please call the MD's general office to give notice of your postal address change: 403.652.2341

All the Best! Suzanne Oel