

Greetings! Sharing my News Update...

Rural Crime Watch Event - April 10, 2018, 7pm, Foothills Centennial Centre (Okotoks): Due to rural property crime escalation, your Foothills County Councillors have requested that we work with our 3 Rural Crime Watches (High Country, Okotoks & Foothills) local to Foothills County to promote a presence of our Rural Crime Watches (RCWs) and that a liaison from our Protective Services assist with bringing all 3 groups together for a discussion with RCMP, Fish & Wildlife, RCWs, Councillors, MLAs and public/RCW members/Community Associations. We look forward to creating partnerships and sharing information to assist with creating a better defense of personal safety and our rural properties. Event link: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/foothills-rural-crime-watch-meeting-tickets-44148406071>
3 RCWs map is now on our website (link): <https://www.mdfoothills.com/rural-crime-watch.html>

2018.03.09 CBC Online Article & Radio interview with the “Homestretch”: 'Like sitting ducks': Rural property owners looking for use-of-force solutions - How rural Alberta is dealing with growing crime rates (link): <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/calgary/rural-crime-property-owner-frustration-1.4570602>. Alberta's Justice Minister Kathleen Ganley announced \$10M as part of the government's new plan to target rural crime. The province will hire 39 new RCMP officers and 40 civilian support staff. It will spend \$2M to hire more crown prosecutors. It will also focus on catching repeat offenders. Suzanne Oel, president of the High Country Rural Crime Watch Association, which covers the area from Turner Valley to Priddis, spoke with host Doug Dirks. (8:16 min - link) <http://www.cbc.ca/listen/shows/the-homestretch/segment/15526305/>. Prov News Release: More police and resources to fight rural crime (link): <https://www.alberta.ca/release.cfm?xID=5355276FA024C-9833-FB53-D8A4C4250AE190B9>

Security Gates on your Property in the Event of an Emergency: The gate is the owner's responsibility. Homeowners are responsible to provide gate information to our Foothills Regional 911 Dispatch Center, who will provide information to emergency responders. You can provide your gate code or lock box code and details about the gate. If there is a key required for the gate or lock on a chain, you can get a lock box from Okotoks/High River Lock & Key (or other source) and place it near the gate. Some gate manufacturers set their gates to open at the blast of our sirens (check with your installer). The last resort is to cut the lock, lift the gate off the hinges, pull the gate open with a chain from the fire truck engine, or various degrees of destruction to gain access. EMS and Police will not have that option. Sometimes they call the Fire Department for assistance when there is no code info on file. The destruction of the gate in the case of an emergency is also the owner's responsibility. Please register your gate information with our Foothills Regional 911 Dispatch Centre and an information note can be added to your address in our Computer-Aided-Dispatch records, so it will come up automatically when you call in, if from a land line. If you call from a cell or VOIP phone, when you give your address and they enter it in, the info will come up in the system because it is attached to your land location and 911 address. You simply need to send an email to: Reports@fresc.ca. Include: your name, legal address, 911 address, phone number, type of gate and lock details. You will receive an acknowledgement. Thx Fire Chief Smith & Foothills Regional 911 Dispatch Centre for info!

Changes to our Burn Permit Process: As a follow-up to our concerns, requests and suggestions about the Burning Events which occurred early in the new year, our staff and Fire Board have come back to Council with an evaluation and recommendation to provide an online system for all Burn Permits, with an upgrade to a two-class system: Class 1 for small-scale (10'x10'x2' or less) and Class 2 for large-scale burns (with max. 48 hour response to applicants). This will allow assessment of important issues and for inspection by the Fire Department. Connecting all data between Foothills Fire Department and our Call-in Centre will improve communications and ability to give notice to permit holders in the event that weather conditions change and fires need to be extinguished. Our office will help with online permits if needed. More info upon request.

2018 Spring Melt: With the large amount of snowfall we experienced this winter, potential flooding is on many people's minds. So, just a note to let you know that our Foothills Public Works will deliver sand and sand bags to residents for the purpose of preparing for a flood, if you are at risk. Our staff will deliver, but not assemble. Call our Public Works about this, or if you see a culvert that is not functioning and may need to be steamed open: Public Works Shop: 403.652.2390

For Other News & Updates: Please visit my website: <http://suzanneoel.com/> Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CouncillorSuzanneOel/>

With Best Regards, Suzanne