



# TOWN NEWSLETTER

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## IT IS 2024, WELCOME TO OUR NEW YEAR

We hope everyone found a way to share the holidays with friends, family, pets and loved ones. It is important to ensure people recharge, to reflect on their successes and challenges over the year. As the Mayor and Council, we look forward to supporting new housing developments, business expansions, community events like the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Small Town Smoke Down BBQ Competition, while collaborating with community members, businesses, and volunteers this year. Together, we will continue to build a welcoming and prosperous community.

## 2024 UTILITY RATES BYLAW #936/24

In 2023, council promoted paper free billing to residents and offered a waiver of the \$5.00 administration fee applied to accounts which enabled people to save up to \$30.00 during the period. Our aim was to see 40-50% of account holders transition to paper free billing. By year end we reached 55% (348 utility account holders) being paper free, and more continue to sign up each month. Thank you to those that chose to go paper free. It saves many hours of administrative time which is then redirected to other projects to keep the town running smoothly.

**Utility rates will remain relatively unchanged in 2024, charged bi-monthly (6-times per year). Both residential and non-residential accounts are charged the same rate per the planned transition. Refer to the next page to learn more about the rates**

### Residential Rates (bi-monthly)

- Water = \$25.00 base fee, plus \$2.75/m<sup>3</sup> up to 500m<sup>3</sup>/annum and \$3.60/m<sup>3</sup> up to 500.1m<sup>3</sup>/annum
- Sewer = \$34.55
- Garbage = \$23.40
- Recycling = \$7.60
- Processing fee = \$5.00
- \*ECO Free for Paper Bills \$2.50

**2024 combined base rate = \$95.55 (less water usage).** 2023 combined base rate was \$88.80

### Non-residential Rates (bi-monthly)

- Water = \$25.00 base fee, plus \$2.75/m<sup>3</sup> up to 3,000m<sup>3</sup>/annum and \$3.60/m<sup>3</sup> up to 3,000.1m<sup>3</sup>/annum
- Sewer = \$34.55
- Garbage = \$23.40
- Recycling = \$7.60
- Processing fee = \$5.00
- \*ECO Free for Paper Bills \$2.50

**2024 combined base rate = \$95.55 (less water usage).** 2023 combined base rate was \$88.80

\*In 2023, we planned to apply an *ECO fee* on utility accounts that chose to receive a paper bill. The ECO fee comes into effect in 2024 at a rate of \$2.50 per bill/billing cycle. Any account holder may sign up for paper free billing by contacting the town office or emailing [town@bassano.ca](mailto:town@bassano.ca). The ECO fee is automatically removed from the next billing cycle when you sign up to be paper free.

You can also find the paper free forms on the town's website at [www.bassano.ca/forms](http://www.bassano.ca/forms) (Utility Account Information Form – Utility – Fillable).

## Utility Rates Bylaw Continued – Additional Facts

**Water Rates** – there are three parts to the water rate. First, is the direct cost to purchase treated water from Newell Regional Services Commission (NRSC). The town purchases treated water from NRSC at a per cubic meter rate of \$1.15/m<sup>3</sup> (the rate increases a minimum of \$0.05/m<sup>3</sup> per annum). This covers the cost of accessing, treating, and piping the water from the main water plant in Brooks to Bassano.

The second part is to operate the town's water treatment plant and in-town distribution system. This includes monitoring and testing water, valves, pumps, curb stops, and other mechanical components. It also includes the cost of contract and certified water operators, a requirement of the town's water license.

The third part is the cost to cover debt to the water system and to allocate funds towards future capital asset replacement. In 2024, the town's water debt will be paid in full. The total cost including interest this year is \$66,465.

Starting in 2024, council elected to collect \$175,000 through the water rates to be dedicated to the capital reserve for future asset replacement. For the current year, debt repayment will be deducted, meaning the total that will be allocated to the capital reserve is \$108,535. An increase to the flat fee of \$5.00 is where council chose to address the reserve needs. The \$25.00 flat fee per utility account generates \$97,425 in revenue, the balance to fund the reserve and cover the cost to operate the distribution system is managed through the per cubic meter rate.

The water rates as established ensure cost recovery of the water system.

**Sewer Rates** – like the water rate, a portion of the bi-monthly sewer rates is allocated towards the lagoon reserve. This is required to ensure the town has adequate reserves to fund future upgrades at the lagoon. When the town received grant funding in 2021 for the lagoon upgrade it was noted by the funders, that the town must ensure it sets aside reserve funds for future costs. We will contribute \$83,425 to the lagoon reserve in 2024 based on the sewer rate of \$34.55. The balance is used to cover the costs to operate the sewer distribution system in town.

The sewer rates as established ensure cost recovery of the sewer system.

**Garbage Rates** – the garbage rate is user pay and consists of two direct fees to the town. The first is directed from the Newell Regional Landfill, the authority that accepts household and commercial waste in the region, along with the transfer station. The second is a service contract with the Village of Duchess for the collection of garbage each week. The garbage rate of \$23.40 is set at cost recovery.

**Recycling Rates** – the recycling rate is set to help with the operational costs to run BARRA, the local recycling depot, and for beautification projects such as tree maintenance, and spring/fall clean-up.

BARRA started to form a new working relationship with Newell Regional Landfill and Newell Recycling in late 2023 to find ways for cost saving while ensuring recycling services remain active in Bassano. The way we recycle may change in 2024 from a building to bins. Depending on the outcome of this partnership, council will re-assess recycling rates and adjust them accordingly. Updates will be provided as soon as they are available.

## INDOOR WALKING IN BACK IN BASSANO



**Come enjoy unstructured walking at the Community Hall in 2024. Our team is putting together a schedule to be posted later this month. The schedule will be available at the town office, online, at the post office, and the electronic sign. Staying active is good for whole body wellness.**



Presents the  
2024 joint

# Recreation Grant Fund

## ► Pool of \$54,000

has been contributed equally by both the Town of Bassano and the County of Newell.

## ► For recreation & culture user groups

operating within the Town or Division 6 of the County of Newell.

## ► User groups can apply for

operating expenses, programs, and events.

## ► Applications open: March 31st.

Applications close: April 30th.

## ► Information and applications

can be found at [www.bassano.ca](http://www.bassano.ca),  
[www.countyofnewell.ab.ca](http://www.countyofnewell.ab.ca), or call (403)641-3788.



## Community Benefit Grant Program

The goal of the Community Benefit Grant Program, which is funded by Elemental Energy (Brooks Solar II) is to provide eligible organizations financial support for projects, events, or initiatives that improve environmental quality, reduce environmental degradation, or increase community awareness of environmental issues. For 2024, the total grant funding available for all projects is \$10,000. Grants may range from \$100 and up.

Funding applications are accepted for projects within the Brooks Newell Region.

Applications open February 1 and close February 28!

Find the guidelines, application form  
and more information!



Or visit [Brooks.ca](http://Brooks.ca)



## SAVE THE DATE! JUNE 7-9, 2024.

Join us for great food, fun, and a little friendly competition at the 3rd annual Small Town Smoke Down BBQ Competition.

To participate, sponsor, or for more information contact Sydney Smith at 403-641-3788, [assistant@bassano.ca](mailto:assistant@bassano.ca).

## In case you missed the public notice, we are optimistic that 2024 will be a year of development.

In late 2023, the town accepted non-refundable deposits on **thirteen** residential lots per our Residential Vacant Land Development Incentive Policy P-TOB66-004-23. All municipally owned residential lots in the R1 and RM districts are considered sold. We are transacting these development plans and anticipate thirteen new builds over the next 12-18 months. As we process these transactions, we encourage the shop local philosophy and will continue to introduce these investors to our business community.

As we transition into 2024, we will keep our eyes focused on helping investors establish themselves in our community, to help people find their dream home, and seek stable employment. Every action taken within our community from volunteers and businesses working together to the installation of murals on Main Street, teaming up to try out a round of disc golf, or providing directions to someone new makes a difference and it is why we stand out. We are so proud of our people and this community.



## Community Christmas

The generosity and supportiveness of our community really shone through in December. Bassano FCSS would like to extend a HUGE round of thanks to our major Christmas Hamper sponsors, Connect First Credit Union, Heritage Propane and Hale Ranch Beef as well as each individual who helped to ensure the distribution of 41 hampers to Bassano and rural areas.

Our local Door to door food drive was a huge success thanks to the organization of Tanis and Terri as well as our local 4H club. We here at FCSS appreciate all the communities efforts big and small to help ensure food security and the true spirit of Christmas in Bassano.

## Rural Pop Up/ Parents and Tots

FCSS in collaboration with SPEC welcomes Rural Pop Up for the 2024 programming year, this is a provincially funded FREE unstructured developmental play and social skill building opportunity. Offered the third Thursday of each month from 10:00- 11:30 am at the Community Hall for parents and guardians of children aged 0-6.

**Upcoming Sessions** : January 30, February 20 and March 19.

## Virtual Reality Travel



Adventure awaits, come and travel the globe with us.



This free program uses virtual reality technology in which the participant is immersed in the sights and sounds of new destinations. In collaboration with Bassano Memorial Library on the third Tuesday monthly you can stamp your passport and be on your way. Seniors access from 10am-12pm and 1-3 pm. Community access from 3pm -5pm. If seniors need a ride they can access the Volunteer Driver of the day.


**Volunteer Driver Schedule is available online at [bassano.ca](http://bassano.ca) under FCSS Upcoming Programs**

## Mental Health First Aid Training

*Save the date.... March 14& 15 - 8:30 am - 4:30 pm*

Registration will be opening soon for Mental health First aid Training. This is a 2 day course that will help enable you to better understand common mental health issues and have the confidence and skills to provide support, and direction to professional care.

For details call Amanda B at 403-641-3788



## SKATE A THON

*Bassano Arena - Jan 26, 2024*  
*Skating starts at 6pm until 8pm*


**Don't delay get your pledge sheet today at Town Office, Bassano School or Connect First Credit Union.**

- \*All Ages can participate
- \*Helmets required on ice surface
- \*Pledge by minute or flat rate
- \*Concession will be available starting at 5pm
- \*Door Prizes
- \*Come cheer on the skaters, no participation necessary

**If you would like to volunteer to help time skaters please call 403-641-3788.**

*\*All proceeds go toward the maintenance fund for the coming Bassano Outdoor Rink (ODR).*  
*Building Bassano together, a great place to live, work and PLAY.*

**MORE INFO CALL: 403 641-3788**

## Bassano Skate A Thon

We are bringing it back!!

Fill up your pledge sheets, sharpen those skates, and strap on your helmet for a fun-filled community event to help develop the upkeep and maintenance fund for the coming Outdoor Arena. The Bassano Fire Rapid Response Society with community support is finally able to purchase the Outdoor Rink for next season so let us prepare and ensure we keep it in good condition for years to come through preparation. Skate A Thon pledge sheets available at Bassano School, Connect First Credit Union and Town Office.

*January 26th at Bassano Centennial Arena  
Doors and Concession open at 5pm  
Skaters take the ice at 6 until 8pm  
Pledge by the minute or flat rate.*

*If you would like to volunteer to help time for this event please call 403 641-3788.*

**Stay updated to Bassano FCSS programs on Facebook @ Bassano Family and Community Support Services**