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VOLUME 18 ISSUE 13

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Strathmore invitational

Page 4



Warriors battle



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Town new strategic plan

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Mayor Pat Fule introduced the Town of Strathmore's 2026 to 2029 strategic plan during the March 18 council meeting, which was subsequently adopted.

The draft of the plan was developed during a series of workshops which took place during the January and February council retreat.

During these, council worked alongside town administration as well as a third-party consultant to determine their areas of priority for the next four years.

A new strategic plan is developed by council roughly at the start of each new term. Fule explained this is to identify initiatives council feels are important to residents, and from there, develop action plans.

"Our vision is for Strathmore to be a vibrant and flourishing place where people love to live and be part of community," he said. "Our residents feel, and we have seen it in our citizen satisfaction surveys, that people really do love living in Strathmore. There is something about this town that makes it special. Our mission is to foster a dynamic and vibrant community where residents can fully participate and thrive."

Council has identified six values which they aim to achieve as a municipality over the course of the current term.

Continued on Page 4



High flying action

Dalton Rouge (l-r) is used as a weapon as tag team partner KB6 launches him into Ryno during Mayhem & Massacre, hosted by Real Canadian Wrestling on March 27 at the Strathmore Agricultural Pavilion. The wrestling promotion is coming back to town to host "Battle at the Barn" on May 29.

Joe Lepage Photo



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Coyotes howl after successful season

MARIO PRUSINA
Times Editor

It was the season to remember for the East Wheatland Athletic Association (EWAA) Coyotes U15 Tier 3 hockey team.

After a dominating regular season, in which they posted a 11-2-3 record, the Coyotes defeated Strathmore (Black) in the first round and Oyen in the second round of the league playoff bracket.

The team then went 2-1 in the U15 Tier3W White round robin playoffs and had to wait until all games were complete and the tiebreakers assessed before officially being named the league champions.

“It was a great experience from start to finish; this group grew a lot over the year, not just as hockey players but as teammates,” said head coach Jay Schultz. “They learned how to handle tough moments and stick together and that’s what carried us through to the championship. As the playoffs went on there was more at stake, more intensity, more fans and the kids responded in kind and elevated their game.”

Throughout the year, the Coyotes were unable to secure a win against Oyen, the only team in the tier that consistently had their number. That set the stage for a dramatic showdown, as the two teams met in the final for league playoff bracket.

In Game 1 of the two-game, total-goals series, played in Oyen, the team delivered one of its strongest performances of the season, winning 5-2.

The championship series then shifted to Standard for Game 2, where harsh



The EWAA Coyotes U15 Tier 3 team won the association’s first championship banner on March 22. The East Wheatland Athletic Association is comprised of local players from Wheatland County and places like Standard, Hussar and Gleichen.

Photo Courtesy of Sarah Schultz

winter weather created uncertainty leading up to puck drop. With a blizzard sweeping through the area, it was unclear whether the game would even be played.

Despite the challenging conditions, the team once again proved its resilience en route to a 6-1 win, winning league playoff bracket and earning a berth in the round robin championship.

“The kids were overjoyed and very excited, especially being at their home rink with a dedicated fan base that braved the blizzard to come and watch us win,” said Schultz. “It was also great to have the actual banner there for the kids to have and celebrate with.”

In the round robin league championship, the Coyotes lost 5-4 to Sundre before beating Red Deer 7-2 and Lethbridge 4-1.

“With the round robin league championship banner, we didn’t know we won until all games in the round robin series between the four teams were completed and the league let us know late Sunday night that we secured the win, because there was a 3-way tie and we won on goal differential,” said Schultz. “I told

the kids that it’s one battle at a time, one shift at a time, one period at a time and don’t think about the banner. The little battles add up to positive things in winning a game. It’s too overwhelming to the kids to have the goal of ‘winning a banner.’ I get them to focus on the little things. Honestly, I didn’t even think about the final moments – I just wanted the kids to focus on the small things; they never took their foot off the gas and focused until that final buzzer.”

The Coyotes, who had a number of first year players, grew as the season went on.

According to team captain Miller Jumpsen, the adversity the team faced in the first round series versus Strathmore was a true confidence builder.

“Playing against Strathmore in the semis was tough and the closest to losing all the progress of the season that we all worked for,” said Jumpsen. “(We played) the first game against Strathmore in playoffs and Strathmore came on top that game. The second game we had to fight harder. When the final buzzer went, the bench lit up with happiness.”



Birdies fly

Strathmore High School welcomed more than 200 athletes for its annual home badminton tournament on March 28, drawing schools from across southern Alberta for a full day of competition. The event showcased athletes across three age divisions, with matches taking place at multiple venues throughout the community. Junior competitors in Grade 10 played their matches at Crowther Memorial Junior High School, while intermediate players in Grade 11 competed at Strathmore High School. Senior athletes in Grade 12 were hosted at partner school Wheatland Crossing School.

Joe Lepage Photos

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True North asks town to waive permit fees for construction of new facility

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The True North Society is seeking financial support from the Town of Strathmore for the construction of housing support for those escaping domestic violence.

A delegation, led by executive director, Courtney Helfrich, and manager of research and development, Amanda Vanderlaan, presented before council during the March 18 meeting.

“Since 2008, True North Society’s board of directors had a vision – second stage and long-term housing for those who have experienced domestic violence for all people,” said Helfrich. “We found ourselves, as part of our strategic planning session in 2022, prioritizing this as a strategic and timely next step to achieve more affordable housing for the families we support.”

True North has previously been granted a deferral on their development permit fees to the town and has further requested that the town waive all of the fees associated with development and building permit levies.

In its current iteration, the project plan suggests a multi-use building with five commercial spaces on the main level, as well as community and office spaces.

Two elevated stories would host 36 afforda-

ble spaces consisting of studio, one, two, and three-bedroom units.

Helfrich explained the facility, which aims to deliver on-site care and support, would be effectively the only one of its kind within the local rural region.

“We seek to be inclusive, open, and welcoming to all who need the support and create a community where people feel connected and supported by one another in a safe, calming, and welcoming space,” she said.

Second-stage housing refers to secure, affordable living spaces largely geared towards women and children escaping domestic violence situations and serves as a transitional stage between an emergency shelter and fully independent living.

Lands marking the site of the structure were purchased by True North in 2022 using the organization’s equity, and funds from an ongoing capital campaign are being earmarked to support groundbreaking and construction.

“We have achieved funding from the federal government, the Province of Alberta, Ministry of Seniors, Community and Assisted Living, as well as our own Ministry of Child and Family Services,” added Vanderlaan. “Most recently, we submitted an application with the Calgary Foundation. We were selected as a finalist of 23 applications and were the only applicants selected outside of Cal-

gary.”

A \$3.5 million grant from the province was announced in July 2025 to be put towards construction. This grant was, at the time, indicated to be part of a more than \$203 million investment by the province towards affordable housing projects.

Mayor Pat Fule and council did not commit to waiving fees for True North during the meeting, citing that they will defer to an administrative report regarding the town’s finances before making their decision on the matter.

County approves land annexation agreement to the Town of Strathmore

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Wheatland County council approved the annexation of approximately 168 acres of land by the Town of Strathmore.

Council voted in favour of the agreement during the March 26 special meeting after receiving an update by administration.

The Town of Strathmore issued a notice, July 8, 2025, of their intention to annex 489 acres from Wheatland County under the Municipal Government Act.

At the time, the town agreed to interest-based negotiations regarding the proposed annexation, including financial reports, roads, and taxation, among other concerns.

Following negotiations, the annexation area was reduced from 489 acres to 168 acres.

The Town of Strathmore debated and approved the annexation agreement during their March 18 meeting.

County administration noted it was their view that the agreement as presented appropriately addressed financial, infrastructure, and governance considerations associated with the proposed annexation.

As part of the annexation, the town will acquire approximately a half mile of range road 254 south of Highway 1, and one mile of township road 242 from the current town boundary to range road 254.

Addressing an inquiry from Reeve Scott Klassen,

the county recently approved repairs to Range Road 254 within the annexation area. The county will not be able to receive reimbursement for those repairs from the Town of Strathmore due to the expense being incurred from internal resources.

Through any would-be legal counsel, the county would be required to submit invoices from tendering, which for said repairs, it would not be able to produce.

Once the annexation is approved by the Land and Property Rights Tribunal, the town would adopt an effective ownership of the land as of Jan. 1, 2026.

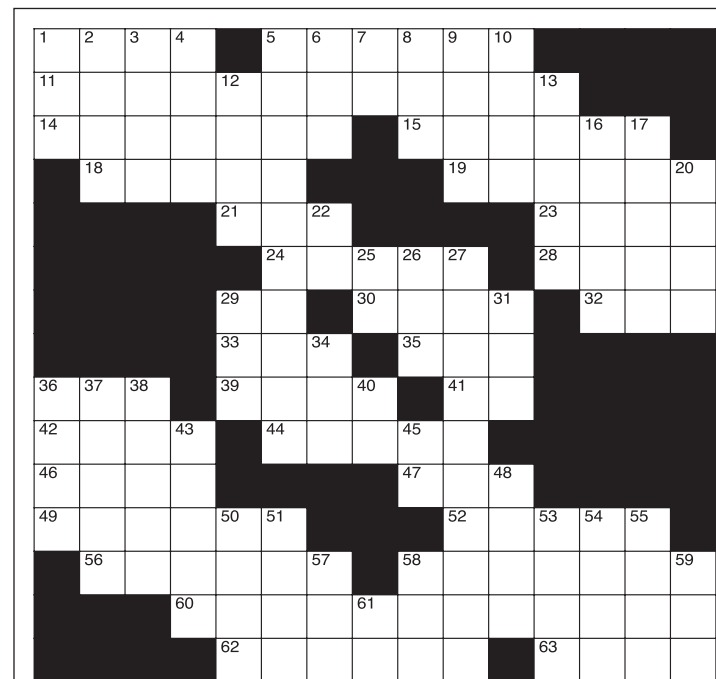
The town is now to submit an annexation application to the Land and Property Rights Tribunal by March 31.

As a reflection of financial impacts to the county as a result of the annexation, the town will compensate in the amount of \$15,500 within 60 days of the application approval. This represents three years of impact to the county being reimbursed.

From the effective date onward, the Town of Strathmore will be responsible for improvements and assessments regarding the lands and roads acquired, as well as assuming responsibility for taxation.

Both the town and the county are committing to providing records and information necessary to support the annexation and application processes.

There is currently no estimated timeline regarding when the Land and Property Rights Tribunal would provide the necessary approval.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Absence of difficulty
- 5. Preserve a dead body
- 11. Gratitude
- 14. The act of coming together again
- 15. More cushy
- 18. Visionaries
- 19. Large fish-eating bird
- 21. Indicates near
- 23. Former CIA and CIA critic
- 24. Icelandic poems
- 28. Pop
- 29. Hammer is one
- 30. Selves
- 32. Thyroid-stimulating hormone
- 33. Nowhere to be found
- 35. Electronic data processing
- 36. Drivers’ licenses and passports are two
- 39. Snake-like fishes
- 41. Air Force
- 42. Popular personal computers
- 44. Stages in ecological succession
- 46. Wings
- 47. In the center
- 49. Pleasantly smooth
- 52. Jeweled headdress
- 56. In slow tempo
- 58. ___ Falls
- 60. Reiterations
- 62. Eras
- 63. Hyphen

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Body part
- 2. Mimics
- 3. Expel or eject (variant sp.)
- 4. Sea eagle
- 5. Taxonomic category
- 6. Chinese languages
- 7. Mr. T’s “A-Team” character
- 8. Consumed
- 9. Chinese dynasty
- 10. NFL legend Randy
- 12. Ireland
- 13. Palm trees with creeping roots
- 16. Fungal disease
- 17. Tall, slender-leaved plants
- 20. Affirmative! (slang)
- 22. It says who you are
- 25. Atlantic coast state
- 26. Grow older
- 27. Associations
- 29. Woman (French)
- 31. Sunscreen rating
- 34. Brew
- 36. Leader
- 37. Indigo bush genus
- 38. Burn with a hot liquid
- 40. Junior’s father
- 43. Mackerel genus
- 45. Morning
- 48. Straight line from side to side (abbr.)
- 50. Type of molding
- 51. Small, thin or twisted bunch
- 53. Worn by exposure to the weather
- 54. Mars crater
- 55. Humanities
- 57. Relating to the ears
- 58. “To the ___ degree”
- 59. Residue when something is burned
- 61. It cools a home

STRATHMORE TIMES

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The new provincial oversight: accountability or control?

To the Editor

The move toward universal provincial rules for municipal councils in Alberta is a troubling expansion of power that threatens the foundation of local democracy. When I moved to Bassano in 1990, the local MLA maintained an office directly within our municipal town office. While some might have seen this as a convenience, it represented a subtle but pervasive form of political intrusion. Having a provincial representative physically embedded in the seat of local government creates a landscape where municipal decisions are constantly shadowed by provincial partisan interests. This dynamic erodes the independence of local leaders, making them feel more like subordinates to a higher government tier than representatives of their own neighbours.

The proposed accountability framework further compounds this issue by introducing a provincial oversight committee. The reality is that members of any such committee will likely be appointed for political loyalty rather than their expertise in municipal governance or their commitment to a specific community's best interests. When a provincial government selects the individuals who hold the power to investigate or sanction local leaders, it creates a mechanism for political control rather than genuine ethics enforcement. These appointees are naturally inclined to favour the provincial agenda, potentially using their authority

to silence dissent or punish councils that dare to challenge the province on critical local issues.

This shift undermines the democratic rights of Albertans. We elect local councils to represent our specific community values, not to act as a regional arm of the provincial cabinet. In British Columbia, the system generally relies on independent commissioners and the court system to resolve disputes, providing a necessary buffer against partisan meddling. Alberta's Bill 20 and the new oversight rules strip away that buffer, replacing local autonomy with a centralized command structure. By allowing political appointees to oversee our elected officials, we risk a future where municipal decisions are made to satisfy a provincial agenda rather than the people of Bassano. It seems the politicians of our time no longer believe that democratic rights should trump political agendas. The president of the USA is their teacher.

Ken Riley
Bassano

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Warriors host provincials

The Wheatland Warriors U13AAA hockey team had a solid showing as they hosted the top teams in Alberta at the provincial championship March 26-30 at the Strathmore Family Centre. The Warriors kept every game close, going 0-2-2, ending every game they played in a draw or losing by one goal. In fact, the Warriors tied the eventual gold medalist 5-5 in round robin play, before falling to the SPKAC Sin Bin Sports Jets 6-5 in their final round robin game (shown here).

Joe Lepage Photos

<p>STRATHMORE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH Meeting in the Lutheran Church 112 Lakeside Blvd. 1-888-506-1066 ext. 101 Pastor: Donald Wright Services held every Saturday Sabbath School: 10 AM Worship Service: 11 AM www.strathmoreadventist.ca donald816@hotmail.com</p> <p>God's Closet Collects children's clothing and distributes Feb., May, Aug. and Nov.</p>	<p>C3 STRATHMORE C3 CHURCH NORTH CALGARY 3812 Marbank Drive N.E., Calgary, AB 403-273-0494 www.c3connect.ca Lead Pastor - Bill Olson Location Pastor - Shan Simpson Pastor - Eric Horstia Sunday at 10:10 a.m. C3 Prayer - Tuesday at 7 p.m.</p>
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Town unveils new four-year strategic plan

Continued from Page 1

As keywords, these values consist of striving to act with integrity, caring, collaboration, solution-focused, innovative, and with a focus on sustainability.

The strategic plan outlines six priorities for the ongoing term, being to emphasize community connection, manage growth, maintain financial resilience, support economic growth, protect water and green spaces, and to improve community safety and wellbeing.

Success in community connection aims to be measured by tracking awareness of town events and increasing participation on bodies such as municipal boards and committees, as well as through advocating for post-secondary opportunities.

The town's goal relating to managing growth is summarized as being to provide a sustainable, grassroots-oriented community both for present and future residents.

"I know (financial resilience) is important to many of our residents because you want to make sure your town is on strong financial footing. Strathmore will apply best practices which enable resilience against unforeseen financial impacts, while sustaining momentum on strategic priorities," said Fule. "(With economic growth), we want to implement intentional strategies and actions to increase job opportunities and improve the living standard for the residents of Strathmore."

The town maintains an objective to balance the local tax base by moving to a 70 per cent residential and a 30 per cent non-residential, which Fule has advocated for previously.

Responding to regional water challenges, the town aims to prioritize water security and environmental management, including the purchase of new water licenses, increasing emergency storage, and implementing more conservation technologies to local infrastructure.

Success indicators for the improvement of community safety and wellbeing will include increasing the number of local family physicians per capita and maintaining high resident satisfaction with emergency services.

This may eventually include the construction of a new fire hall, as previously mentioned is on the town's radar.

Strathmore High School hosts regional Super Smash Bros. tournament

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Building on the success and excitement from previous years, Strathmore High School hosted a regional eSports tournament, March 25, once again offering a relatively new space for students to compete.

This time around, Strathmore High School brought together students to clash over Super Smash Bros. Ultimate – a fast-paced platform fighting game which operates in a similar style to that of Street Fighter or Mortal Combat.

“We have been doing eSports in the school for a few years now, mostly as a club, and there are other programs starting up. It is really picking up around the province,” said Ed Eberts, the Strathmore High School teacher who organized the tournament and oversees the eSports club. “(The students) look forward to it all year, just waiting for the event. Smash Bros., in particular, because you kind of have to play it in person. It’s a really different experience of the game.”

Eberts, now a member of the Alberta Scholastic eSports League (ASEL), is on an academic subcommittee helping to organize similar events throughout the province.

Three Hills School hosted a Rocket League tournament in 2024, and Strathmore students found themselves in Calgary competing last year. Prior to going to Calgary, local students travelled to Lethbridge for their opportunity to compete.

“We had schools attend from Three Hills, Drumheller, Standard, Strathmore, all around Golden Hills School Division. I invited schools from as far out as Medicine Hat, but nobody came this time. I am hoping it grows from here,” said Eberts.

As a rough estimate, Eberts said between 60 and 70 students came out to compete.

Just like any sporting event, students are required to have a coach to show up with them to compete at a given eSports tournament.

By school, each is slightly different, explained Eberts. Some will simply have an eSports club, while others have begun to operate dedicated eSports classes and organized teams who practice together regularly.

ASEL sanctioned the event, including the provision of medals for the students who placed first, second, and third in their respective divisions. This time around, the tournament hosted U15 and U18 divisions.

The Alberta eSports Championship, also hosted by ASEL, is planned to be held at Bow Valley College in May in their eSports arena, offering another opportunity this spring for students to engage in competition.

“We also run leagues throughout the year and tournaments for a couple other games, and then players that participate in there, the top team or two, often they will compete in eSports Canada’s events,” added Eberts.

Currently, Valorant, Rocket League, and Super Smash Bros. Ultimate are among the initial and most popular sanctioned games available for competition.

Further organization for future tournaments is going to-



Strathmore High School hosted a Super Smash Bros. Ultimate eSports tournament, March 25, sanctioned by the Alberta Scholastic eSports League. Students from across the local region were invited to compete in two divisions. Medals were distributed to the podium finishers at the conclusion of the tournament.

Photo Courtesy of Ed Eberts

wards expanding the selection to include more genres, such as for League of Legends, NHL, or Splatoon. Eberts suggested titles will be examined based on their popularity among local player bases.

In the U15 division, Franko Dyk, Mason Van De Castle, and Jack Fawdry, each representing Crowther Memorial Junior High, swept the podium.

For the U18’s, Toshi Masaki and Takuto Nakamura from Strathmore High School also claimed medals. Joining them was Tristan Giles from Three Hills School.

Chantelle de Jonge
MLA, Chestermere-Strathmore

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YOUR WEEKLY HEALTH ADVICE
Gord Morck Pharmacist
Capsule Comments

Want a simple test to see how you are ageing? Do the “sit/stand” test. See how many times you can rise from a sitting to standing position in 30 seconds. To get an idea of averages for your age group, here are some guidelines for men/women:

60-64: 14/12; 70-74: 12/10; 75-79: 11/10; 80-84: 10/9; 85-89: 8/8; 90-94: 7/4. Give it a try to see where you fit in.

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Just as the HPV vaccine can prevent future cases of cervical cancer, research in the UK is in the early pre-clinical development phase to produce an ovarian vaccine which promises to stamp out ovarian cancer. Called *OvarianVax*, the vaccine teaches the immune system to recognize and attack the earliest stages of ovarian cancer. Sounds like another win in the goal to defeat cancer.

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Wonderful women

The 2026 Women's Conference brought together a strong turnout on Saturday, March 28 at HOPE Community Covenant Church, offering a full day focused on connection, learning, and inspiration. Attendees from across the region gathered for the event, which featured engaging speakers, a variety of local vendors, and opportunities to connect with others in the community.

Joe Lepage Photo

Pushing for a CT scanner

MARIO PRUSINA
Times Editor

The Strathmore District Health Foundation is calling on the community to rally behind an important push to bring a computed tomography (CT) scanner to the community.

The foundation is requesting letters of support from municipalities, local groups, and residents to advocate for the advanced diagnostic equipment.

A CT scanner helps diagnose conditions like tumors, infections, bleeding, and injuries, and supports doctors in treatment and surgical planning.

“Strathmore and the surrounding region have grown significantly, and Calgary is expanding at one of the fastest rates in the country,” said Joyce Bazant, president of the Strathmore District Health Foundation. “As Calgary’s hospitals face increasing demand, securing a CT scanner in Strathmore would not only meet local needs, but also help relieve pressure on Calgary’s already strained diagnostic facilities. We’re asking residents, businesses, and partners to submit letters of support to demonstrate the clear need for local imaging capacity.”

According to the foundation, collec-

ting letters of support is a key part of demonstrating the need for the equipment. These submissions help illustrate the real-world impact a CT scanner would have on local patients and provide measurable evidence of demand within the community.

The letters will be compiled and presented to Alberta Health Services and provincial decision-makers as part of ongoing discussions about improving access to diagnostic care in the region.

“Letters show real world impact and unified regional advocacy. They help quantify demand and demonstrate that investing in Strathmore will benefit both the local community and the broader Calgary region,” said Bazant. “(The letters) will be presented to Alberta Health Services and provincial leaders as part of ongoing discussions. Each letter strengthens the case for expanding diagnostic capacity outside Calgary. Strong community advocacy increases the likelihood of securing this critical equipment.”

Letters of support can be sent to the Strathmore District Health Foundation, 200 Brent Blvd, Strathmore, AB T1P 1T8, or drop off at the Strathmore Hospital or emailed (strathmorehospital-foundation@gmail.com).

Upcoming Meetings

Council and committee meetings will now be open to the public and via teleconference. For public hearings it is strongly encouraged that you attend in person.

April 7, 2026, 9:00 a.m. | Council Meeting

April 8, 2026, 9:00 a.m. | ASB Meeting

April 14, 2026, 9:00 a.m. | Municipal Planning Commission

For call-in details, access links, and agenda packages, please visit our website. <https://wheatlandcounty.ca/agendasandminutes/>



ROSEBUD COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE

Wheatland County is hosting an open house to share information about several projects planned in Rosebud this summer. Residents are invited to attend, learn more about the upcoming work, ask questions, and share their feedback.

Date: April 21
Time: 6:00 – 8:00 PM
Location: Rosebud Memorial Hall

Projects include:

- New pathway construction
- Watermain looping (Railway Ave. to Main St.)
- Paving of Severn Ave. and Comstock St.
- Sidewalk improvements
- Upgraded washroom facilities

JOIN OUR TEAM!

Are you wanting to give back or become more involved in your community? Wheatland County Fire Services is recruiting volunteer firefighters!

Minimum requirements:

- 18 years of age
- Valid class 5 drivers licence
- No criminal record
- Good physical health



If you're interested or have questions, please call or email Fire Services at 403-361-2182 or fireservices@wheatlandcounty.ca.

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Great performances

The second week of the 2026 Strathmore Performing Arts Festival (SPAF) featured Junior Piano (March 23-25), Guitar and Strings (March 24) and Senior Piano (March 26-28). The Final Concert will be held on April 1 at the Hope Community Covenant Church at 7 p.m. The first week of the SPAF featured choir, choral speech, band, woodwinds, Contemporary Commercial Music (CCM), voice, speech, and musical theatre.

Photos Courtesy of the Strathmore Performing Arts Festival



All vehicles need to use caution at railway crossings

ALBERTA RCMP

The Alberta RCMP and CN Police partnered together to carry out a joint public awareness campaign focused on railway safety at crossings on March 18. Railway crossings remain a high-risk environment year-round, particularly for operators of farm machinery, commercial vehicles, and heavy equipment. As large and slow-moving vehicles continue to move across rural and industrial roadways, the RCMP is reminding operators to use caution and follow railway safety rules when approaching and crossing railway tracks.

Due to their slower speeds and size, farm and industrial vehicles require additional time and space to safely cross train tracks. Operators must be vigilant at both marked and unmarked crossings, especially on rural roads or private land. Weather conditions, including freezing and thawing cycles, can create uneven surfaces, soft or muddy ground, ice buildup, or hidden hazards near crossings. Even as temperatures begin to warm, risks can remain, so operators should never assume conditions are safe without carefully assessing the crossing first.

“Road maintenance equipment operators need to be extra vigilant when working at or on railway crossings,” explains Inspector Brian Jones of the CN Police Service, Mountain Division (Alberta and Saskatchewan). “Commercial vehicle operators need to remember to look, listen, and live when driving over

a railway crossing. Your rig may be big, but a train is bigger.”

Safety reminders for equipment operators:

- Stop, look, and listen before crossing. Trains can approach faster and more quietly than expected.
- Never attempt to cross unless you are sure there is enough room on the other side to fully clear the tracks.
- Gear down before reaching the crossing. Avoid shifting gears while crossing tracks to prevent stalling.
- Always obey railway signs, lights, and signals, even if you don't see or hear a train.
- If your vehicle becomes stuck on the tracks, exit immediately and contact the railway company using the emergency number posted near the crossing.

Failure to take proper precautions could result in catastrophic consequences for both the equipment operator and train personnel. Working safely near railways means being alert, prepared, and respectful of all crossing points, marked or not.

“No matter the size of your vehicle, trains cannot stop quickly,” says Superintendent Holly Glassford, Detachment Commander of the Red Deer RCMP. “We're reminding all drivers, especially those operating large or slow-moving equipment, to plan ahead and ensure it's safe before crossing railway tracks.”

For more safety tips follow us on Facebook @RCMPinAlberta and on X @RCMPAlberta.



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2026 Ladies Bonspiel

The Strathmore Ladies Bonspiel would like to express our gratitude and say "Thank You" to the following businesses for their generous donations and to our Gold and Silver Sponsors! We appreciate your generosity! You are what makes our Bonspiel successful every year and we appreciate your kindness.

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Thanks again to all our generous sponsors, the volunteers, staff, and the out-of-town teams who travel to participate. It's very much appreciated.



A Event Winners - Team Kluck



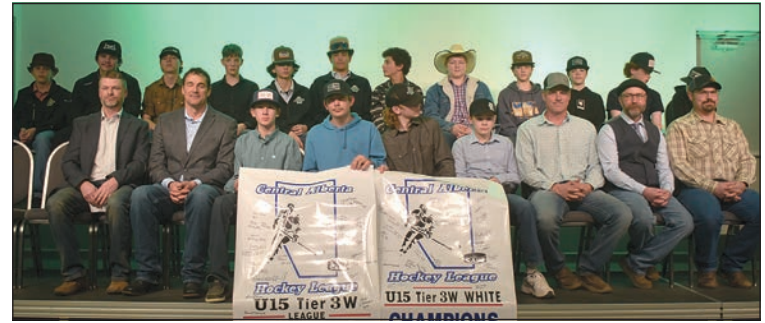
B Event Winners - Shack Attack



C Event Winners - Team Kelly



D Event Winners - Team Jackson



Closing out the season

Celebrating a season of hard work, teamwork and a couple of banners thrown into the mix, athletes, coaches and families gathered for the East Wheatland Athletic Association's (EWAA) second annual awards banquet in Standard on March 27. The night began with pizza and drinks, moved on to recognize achievements, and closed out the night with a dance to celebrate another memorable season.

Melissa Piche Photos



A second access road leading into the community of Lakewood was officially opened, March 31, with a ribbon cutting ceremony.

John Watson Photo

Lakewood celebrates opening of new community access road

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

A second access road into the community of Lakewood has officially opened, as of March 31, with a ribbon cutting taking place to mark the occasion.

Scott Silva, director of sales and marketing for Lakewood of Strathmore, explained the new road will serve to connect Lakewood, as well as Wildflower, directly to Highway 1.

"We are very excited that this road is now open off of the north boundary road here in town and heading north-south down towards Highway 1. It is not only a milestone for the Town of Strathmore, but a big milestone for the community of Lakewood," he said. "We have always only had one point of access into the community, and it can cause strain not only in peak volume times, but also even for emergency services. We are very excited for this not only to have another access point, but also for emergency services."

In addition to keeping traffic flowing smoothly and establishing better access for first responders, Silva explained the quality-of-life increase will also benefit the builders and tradespeople involved in continuing to manufacture the growing community.

The road will be accessible for everyone – a point Silva wanted to emphasize, as construction crews will largely

be utilizing the new entrance and the Lakewood team wished for there to not be any confusion over whether it was explicitly an access road.

"As Phase 2B builds out, we can definitely anticipate all of the residents using this new entrance, and then in about a year's time, we are going to have the brand-new main entrance into the community, which will be the third point of access developed," he said. "This process, if I'm not mistaken, is a couple years in the making. Now this road is open, but it is not even at its full scale. This road is actually going to expand."

Silva explained the road will eventually be a double lane directional road, complete with traffic circles. This, however, is likely to be at least another year in the works at minimum.

Ongoing developments in the community include further construction on homes in Phases 2B and 2C, as well as the recreational lake.

"Our big crescendo, or one of our crowning moments, is going to be the announcement of the completed recreational lake, so that is ongoing right now. We are still actively working on the site," said Silva. "You are seeing equipment showing up now, so throughout the summer, we will be working on the lake itself. By next year, we are definitely looking to have our lake up and running."

RCMP warning public of phone scams

ALBERTA RCMP

RCMP Special Investigations Unit, General Investigation Section is alerting the public to a scheme occurring across Canada involving impersonation of Canadian telecommunication companies.

Victims are receiving cold calls from fraudsters reporting to be from phone companies, asking them if they would like a deal to upgrade their current phone device. Victims report that the calls seem legitimate.

The scammers give fake employee names and may even let the victim speak with their supervisors. Once the victim agrees to order a new phone, they do this properly through their actual phone providers online app (in most cases). Occasionally the scammers take over the customer's phone app account with personal information they solicit during the calls. The scammers may also send the victims emails using stolen logos.

The victim confirms with the scammers that they have ordered the new device and the scammers call the victims upon receiving their new device and convince them they were sent the incorrect device and must return it to the return facility, which is usually a random Canadian address of a person working for the scheme.

To protect yourself from this scam,

RCMP wants you to remember the following if you receive a call from a phone company:

- Do not make any agreement for a new device when the phone company calls you.
- Do not call the phone numbers provided.
- Independently research or confirm your phone company's customer service number from an official website, a billing document, etc.
- Call them back with independently confirmed information to make sure it is a legitimate offer.

If you believe you are a victim of this scam, please contact the Airdrie RCMP at 403-945-7267. If you wish to remain anonymous, you can contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS), online at www.P3Tips.com or by using the "P3 Tips" app available through the Apple App or Google Play store. To report crime online, or for access to RCMP news and information, download the Alberta RCMP app through Apple or Google Play. To contact RCMP non-emergency line within any Alberta RCMP jurisdiction call 310-RCMP (7267).



The Wheatland Recreational Hockey Group held their annual Garbage Can Cup this year being in support of the Krall Family. At the conclusion of the game, \$1,000 was donated in Livy Krall's (9) name.

Photo Courtesy of Joe Elliot

Garbage Can Cup supports local youth with ANEC

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism
Initiative Reporter

A local recreational hockey group has come together to support a family in need, raising \$1,000 for the Krall family by the end of their annual charity hockey game.

Joe Elliot, who runs the Wheatland Recreational Hockey Group, explained the money aims to help Livy Krall, 9, and her family following her Acute Necrotizing Encephalopathy of Childhood (ANEC) diagnosis.

"It's a shinny group; we play out in Standard every Sunday night through the hockey season, and it is our year end game. Over the last three years, we have made it a charity game," he said. "It was an idea that we had a few years ago, and it took a little bit to get the nuts and bolts of it together. As the group grew, some of the group that has been there from the beginning, we started thinking if there was a way we could have a positive impact out there on our local community."

ANEC is a rare, rapid onset brain disease which occurs in the wake of viral infections and is characterized by lesions in the brain, among other severe symptoms.

Elliot explained several of the people who participate in the group are closely connected with the Krall family which eventually lead to the

decision to dedicate their fundraising efforts for them this season.

"The charity game was great. The way we run this is the top attendees of shinny throughout the year, the top 26 skaters and our two goalies get an invite to our cup game, and I have two captains picked from the previous year," he said. "We go through a draft in the week before and we have a great game ... some of the sponsorship that we get is deals under ice, support from our concession, and so from there, we had team blue against team white."

The Krall family was invited out to watch the game and was presented with the \$1,000 cheque at the end of the competition.

The funds raised are largely through drop-in fees for the Garbage Can Cup game itself, as well as internal raffles and activities.

"This was our biggest pot since we started doing the charity things. We were just over \$500 the first year, (and) just over \$600 last year," added Elliot. "There has been lots of demand for it, especially coming out of COVID-19, there was a lot of people who hung up their skates, and we had a few lean years there."

The Garbage Can Cup will return next season, with Elliot aiming to continue the trend of increasing the pot in support of local causes.

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Chestermere-Strathmore MLA

Alberta's government is taking action to keep Alberta safe, prosperous, and full of opportunity. From prioritizing victim safety and helping more Albertans find work, to speeding up major project approvals, we're focused on tangible steps that keep our communities safe, support workers, and grow the economy.

Strong public safety starts with putting victims first. That's why our government is expanding Alberta's electronic monitoring program to better supervise repeat offenders and help keep victims safe. Budget 2026 invests \$4.1 million over three years to add real-time notifications for victims and expand the program across the province. Victims who choose to participate will get immediate alerts if an offender crosses a court-ordered boundary or comes near a protected location. With 24-7 GPS monitoring and stronger enforcement of court conditions, this expansion puts victims first and gives them something they've often lacked: peace of mind.

Helping Albertans succeed in the workforce remains a major priority for our government. Through Budget 2026, we're investing a record \$247 million into career and employment services to help Albertans find and keep good jobs. Through partnerships with more than 160 service providers, this funding will connect peo-

ple to training, job opportunities, and supports in high-demand sectors across the province. It also includes \$35 million for simulated worksites that offer paid, hands-on training with local employers so Albertans can build skills and move into stable, long-term jobs.

And we're supporting young Albertans get their start in the workforce through a \$20 million investment over three years in youth employment and skills training. This funding will strengthen the Alberta Youth Employment Incentive and other workforce programs, enabling about 3,500 employers to hire up to 8,750 youth across the province. By covering part of the cost of hiring and training, the program makes it easier for businesses to bring young people on board and ensures youth get paid work experience that builds confidence and sets them up for successful careers here at home.

Our government is also making it faster to approve major projects in Alberta by introducing a 120-day timeline for priority projects that are in the provincial interest. This will help reduce unnecessary delays, improve coordination across government and regulators, and give industry the certainty it needs to invest. Indigenous consultation and environmental protections will continue to be an important part of the process. As Alberta works to grow production, expand market access, and strengthen energy security, this step sends a clear message that our province is ready to get major projects built.

Alongside these efforts to strengthen Alberta's economy, we are also investing in the health and well-being of our communities. I am pleased to share that the Langdon Medical Clinic has been awarded \$150,000 through the Rural Team Recruitment Grant Program. This investment from the Ministry of Primary and Preventative Health Services will help expand the clinic's team, improve access to primary care, and strengthen a more sustainable, community-focused healthcare system.

Together, these actions reflect a broader commitment to building safer communities, giving hardworking Albertans an opportunity to succeed, and driving our economy forward. By strengthening confidence in our justice system, investing in jobs, and cutting red tape, we are building a province we can all be proud of.

As always, please feel free to reach out to my office with your feedback and questions (Chestermere.Strathmore@assembly.ab.ca).

(Chantelle de Jonge is the MLA for Chestermere-Strathmore and the Parliamentary Secretary for Affordability and Utilities)

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Obituary



KAY, Diane Elva

It is with heavy hearts, we say goodbye to our mom. Diane Elva Kay, age 78 years, passed away March 25th, 2026 peacefully with her family.

Diane brought light and laughter into every room she walked into, her humor contagious to all.

Diane will be profoundly missed by her daughters, Kathy (Jacob) and Karyn (Mike); her cherished grandchildren, Mary and Jamie; sisters, Cheryl (Herb) and Cathie (Terry); brother in law, Keith (Barb); and beloved extended family and friends.

Diane was lucky enough to be loved by not only her family, but so many friends both in Strathmore, and then later in life in Sherwood Park.

Diane was predeceased by her husband of 49 years, Jim; and their two infant sons. At Diane's request there will be no funeral service, however there will be a small gathering for family at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Diane's name to the Canadian Lung Association. To send condolences, please visit www.riverviewfuneral.com

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In Our Hearts

(author unknown)



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- \$50 for Canadian Silver Dollars
- Pre 1964 US & Pre 1967 Canadian, 50 cents \$20 each, \$8 each per Quarter, \$3 each per dime.
- 1967 & 1968 silver coins 20X

Also buying ALL GOLD & SILVER COINS, Jewelry, bullion, ingots, bars, nuggets, gold dust, dental gold, sterling silver, coin collections, Royal Mint, RCM, US Mint, Franklin Mint sets, old money, numismatics & anything made of gold or silver!

Covering ALL OF ALBERTA, and can come to you!
CALL OR TEXT NOW! Ph: 825-365-8557

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WE BUY GOLD & SILVER!

Turn your gold & silver into **CASH TODAY!**

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- ✓ Sterling Silver Items
- ✓ Coins & Bullion
- ✓ Scrap Gold & Dental Gold

We come to the privacy of your home!
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SENIORS 55+ GET 10% MORE!
FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL

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SUDOKU

8	2	7	3	6	9	1	4	5
4	3	9	2	5	1	8	6	7
5	1	6	8	4	7	2	3	9
3	5	1	7	2	4	9	8	6
9	8	4	5	1	6	3	7	2
7	6	2	9	8	3	5	1	4
2	4	8	6	3	5	7	9	1
1	9	5	4	7	8	6	2	3
6	7	3	1	9	2	4	5	8

Are you looking to pursue a career in print journalism?

CA MacLean Local Journalism Grant

Essay Competition

- 2 (two) - \$2,000 grants available
- Open to Alberta students heading into their minimum second year of a post-secondary program relating to journalism
- Essay must convey the important role of quality community journalism plays in our modern world

CA MacLean Bursary Foundation Alberta Weekly Newspapers Association



Upcoming Council Meetings

April 1, 2026 | 6 p.m.
 April 8, 2026 | 6 p.m.
 April 15, 2026 | 6 p.m.

Regular Meeting of Council
 Committee of the Whole
 Regular Meeting of Council

Come Say Hi

Hearing from the community is really important to us, so you're welcome at any Council or Committee of the Whole meeting. You do not need to call ahead or register to observe Strathmore Council in action. There is ample public seating and additional standing room if needed. You can also watch livestreamed meetings online as they happen, or catch up later on YouTube.

It's that time of year (no, not Christmas).

Heavy Item Garbage & Trash to Treasure.

Heavy Item Garbage (HIG) collection returns the week of April 13, 2026. HIG gives residents the opportunity to dispose of large household items, provided alongside your regular curbside collection service. If you pay the residential garbage charge on your Town of Strathmore utility bill, this service is available to you.

Place all your items at your regular garbage pickup location by 7 a.m. on April 13, 2026 and attach an HIG tag. Tags are free at the Strathmore Municipal Building or Strathmore Library for pickup before April 13. Please note that households are limited to five items per collection and tags will not be handed out during HIG week.

Don't forget about Trash to Treasure (TTT) Days! TTT Days runs a few days before HIG week on April 9 to 12, 2026. It's a great chance to give your unwanted but reusable items a second life. Mark items with an HIG tag and place them at your regular collection spot for neighbours to pick up. At the end, remove any items you want to keep and leave others for HIG collection.

A few reminders for participants:

- Donators: Only mark items that are reusable and that you are willing to give away.
- Collectors: Only take items marked with an HIG tag. Be respectful of others' property and do not leave unwanted items on a neighbour's lawn.

For more information, visit Strathmore.ca/Waste

Bored? We can fix that.

Join a board.

Boards and committees have always played an important role in our community. If you're looking for a way to make an impact, this is your chance to get involved. The Town is currently accepting applications for the following boards or committees.

- Assessment Review Board - 1 position open.
- Family and Community Support Services Advisory Board - 2 positions open.

For questions about Volunteer Boards and Committees, please email LSAdmin@strathmore.ca or call 403-934-3133.

Join our team.

Career opportunities available.

The Town of Strathmore is hiring! We have a variety of positions available across different departments. Check out Strathmore.ca/Careers for more information about current opportunities.

Good food, great food.

Get the Good Food Box.

The Good Food Box is a non-profit organization offering access to quality produce while ensuring variety, freshness and affordability. Locally grown produce is prioritized with a focus on seasonal fruits and vegetables.

The Good Food Box is brought to you by your community, packed by volunteers and delivered to Strathmore through FCSS. This program is accessible for everyone regardless of income level. For more information, visit Strathmore.ca/GoodFoodBox

Notices coming out in February.

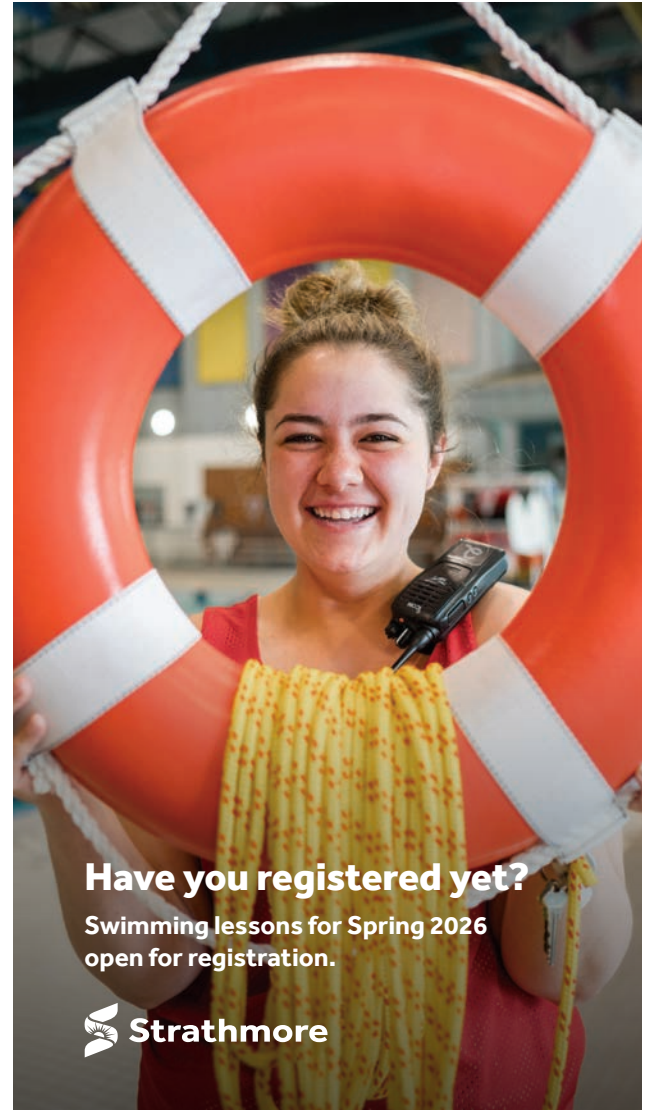
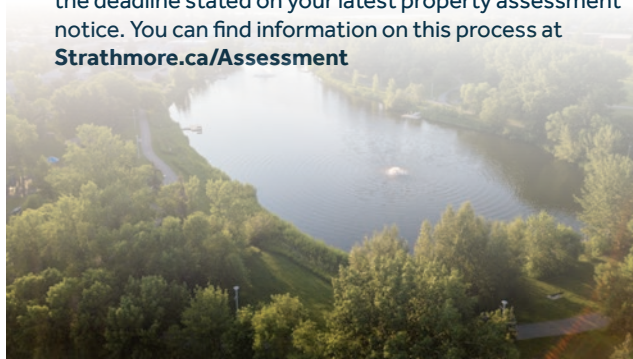
Property assessment notices.

On February 18, 2026, more than 6,400 annual property assessment notices were mailed out, signaling the start of the 2025 Customer Inquiry Period, which wraps up in April.

The Customer Inquiry Period is an important time for property owners to check, compare, and review their assessment for accuracy, fairness, and equity.

When you receive your notice, there's a few things you should do.

- Review the details on your assessment notice.
- Check what makes up your property's assessment value and compare it with similar properties in your neighbourhood using our property search function, found at Strathmore.ca/Assessment
- Contact the Town's assessor, Wildrose Assessment Services, for one-on-one support by calling 403-343-3357. Their property assessment experts can answer most assessment related questions with no formal complaint fees required. To help address concerns, please have your latest assessment notice in front of you with the account number and validation group information ready.
- If you disagree with your property's assessment, you can file a formal appeal with the Assessment Review Board by the deadline stated on your latest property assessment notice. You can find information on this process at Strathmore.ca/Assessment



Have you registered yet?

Swimming lessons for Spring 2026 open for registration.



Please save water.

It really makes a difference.

Stage 4 Water Restrictions.

The City of Calgary has enacted Stage 4 Water Restrictions due to a water main break and have asked surrounding communities to do so as well. Effective March 9, 2026, the Town of Strathmore has also implemented Stage 4 Water Restrictions.

Please consider taking the following steps to reduce water consumption:

- Limit showers to under 3 minutes
- Flush toilets only when necessary
- Run dishwashers and laundry only when full

As we navigate Stage 4 Water Restrictions, our water system operator, EPCOR, is proactively topping our reservoirs to ensure we have adequate water reserves to support essential services and maintain system stability. While EPCOR manages operations behind the scenes, our community's continued efforts to conserve water remain critical. Reduced demand helps keep reservoir levels strong and supports system reliability until Calgary's system is fully restored.

For more information on Stage 4 Water Restrictions, please visit: Strathmore.ca/WaterRestrictions

Notice of Public Hearing.

April 15, 2026 at 6 p.m.

Land Use Bylaw Amending Bylaw No. 25-27 Lakewood Phase 2

Please be advised that the Town of Strathmore has received a Land Use Bylaw Amendment application impacting Phase 2 of the Lakewood Community. The Developer has indicated to the Planning Department that there is demand for secondary suites, garage suites, and 1.2 m side yard setbacks in Lakewood.

The three proposed amendments include:

- Adding "Secondary Suite" as a permitted use for 42 serviced, but undeveloped lots, located in Phase 2B. The 42 lots are currently designed R2X - Medium Density Attached Residential District (R2X). (Applicable to the lands legally known as: Lots 49-92 inclusive, Block 4, Plan 251 1341.)
- Adding "Garage Suite" as a permitted use for 34 laned lots located in Phase 2B and 6 laned lots located in Phase 2A (totaling 40 lots). The lots are currently designated R2 - Low Density Residential District (R2) and R1N - Single Detached Residential (Narrow Lot) District (R1N). (Applicable to the lands legally known as: Lots 1-17 inclusive, Block 8, Plan 251 1341, Lots 19- 35 inclusive, Block 8, Plan 251 1341, and Lots 24-29 inclusive, Block 2, Plan 231 1718.)
- Reducing the side yard setback requirement from 1.5m to 1.2m for 33 future R1N lots in Phase 2C. (The legal addresses impacted are: Portion of NW 22-25-25 W4M.)

Public Hearing Process

A copy of the proposed Bylaw may be inspected by the public during regular office hours, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday at the Town Office (1 Parklane Drive, Strathmore, AB), or can be found on the Town website, Strathmore.ca/PublicHearings Please contact the Town Office if you would like an opportunity to review and provide input on the proposed amendments prior to the Public Hearing.

The Public Hearing will be held via ZOOM AND in Council Chambers, Strathmore Municipal Building, 1 Parklane Drive, Strathmore Alberta on **Wednesday, April 1, 2026**, commencing at 7:00 p.m. with procedures in accordance with the Municipal Government Act, Section 199 and the Town of Strathmore Council Procedural Bylaw No. 23-17 and amendments thereto. Any person or group of persons, or person acting on someone's behalf, who claims to be affected by any of the proposed bylaw may present suggestions or concerns by making a submission to the public hearing. Please contact Legislative Services at LSAdmin@strathmore.ca by **12 p.m. noon on Wednesday, March 25, 2026**, in order to register to present.

Written submissions to the Public Hearing or the name of any person wishing to make an oral presentation at the Public Hearing must be received by the Planning and Development Department prior to 12:00 noon on Wednesday, **March 25, 2026**, as outlined in Bylaw No. 23-17 and amendments thereto. If your written submission is not received by this time, please provide fifteen (15) copies for distribution at the Public Hearing. Each person wishing to address Council at the Public Hearing shall complete their verbal presentation within five minutes.

Please note that written submissions will become public documents once submitted to the Town, unless otherwise requested.

Please contact Legislative Services at (403) 934 3133 prior to attending a Public Hearing to determine the order of Bylaw presentations in the Council Agenda to ensure efficient use of your time.