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KIC REALTY

Page 2



Ag reception

County conditionally supports new lodge

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Wheatland County council engaged in discussion regarding a request from the Wheatland Housing Management Body (WHMB) for funding in the amount of \$916,702 during the April 2 regular meeting of council.

County administration received a letter from the WHMB chief administrative officer, March 22, requesting an advancement of funds for the design of a new hospice and lodge in order for it to be in a more shovel-ready state.

Wheatland County council has previously passed motions to provide funding for the construction phase of the project. Design work does not fall within the conditions of previous motions.

Funding for the project would come from an unallocated surplus, or be borrowed through a long-term debt. As the project would have a projected lifespan of 60 or more years, funds would be borrowed over the maximum possible length to serve the lifespan of the project.

The total cost of the Wheatland Lodge development project was estimated to be \$52,739,184. Wheatland County was requested to provide \$3,985,914 of this funding. The \$916,702 requested to aid in bringing the project to a more shovel-ready status is not in addition to the total request, rather, as a portion of it invested ahead of construction.

Coun. Glenn Koester noted during the council meeting, the Province of Alberta has made its stance clear: grant funding will not be allocated to the project unless it can be presented in a grant application as being shovel-ready.

Concerns were expressed during the meeting by Reeve Amber Link regarding accountability by the WHMB board, and the lack of transparency of information regarding the lodge project.

"I'm furious a councillor on our council created a situation last year that led to public outrage by unilaterally directing that the request for a letter of support from our council be withdrawn and then proceeded to attend multiple meetings across our county hosted by the Wheatland Housing Management Body and Wheatland and Area Hospice Society boards where they then led the public to believe our council did not support a new lodge or our seniors. This was deliberately deceitful given the fact we had not yet had an opportunity to debate the matter or establish a council position," she said.

Continued on Page 4

Page 4



Magical music



Easter treats

Many children in the community attended rescheduled the Easter Egg Hunt on April 6 in Kinsmen Park. The event, which was originally planned for the day before Easter, was rescheduled from the original date because of a dump of snow the night before. This year marked the 32 annual Easter Egg Hunt and it was organized by Carey Rose of Re/Max Key.

Joe Lepage Photo

STRATHMORE TIMES

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REPs

Ag Society hosts reception for officials to present western events and cultural centre project

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Strathmore and District Agricultural Society hosted a reception for members of government, as well as relevant organizations to discuss their ongoing Western Events and Cultural Centre capital campaign.

“We had a number of representatives come from large corporations from the area, large farms and ranches, of course representatives from provincial and municipal government, as well as from the Alberta Beef Producers, as well as other stakeholder organizations who are involved in the project,” said Ryan Schmidt, president and CEO of the Ag Society. “The message was ‘we are going to build this project and we are looking for your help.’”

In attendance from the province was the Minister of Tourism and Sport, Joseph Schow. MP Martin Shields and MLA Chantelle de Jonge also made appearances at the reception.

Schmidt emphasized that no one

member of a government has the authority to commit financial backing and support for a project such as the Western Events and Culture Centre, though he is optimistic about the potential for support from multiple levels of government.

“(There is) a process this has to go through, through careful consideration, through different budget procedures – so we are definitely putting forth the request to support the project,” he said. “I think the initial reception is positive, and of course they have to do their due diligence and consideration, and we will happily supply information they need to support that process.”

Going forward, Schmidt explained the next steps for the ag society will be to begin meeting with companies and organizations in one-on-one environments to put forward their ask for support.

He added public interest is beginning to accumulate, stating that groups from across Canada have begun to reach out and inquire when events may be booked at the new centre.



The Strathmore and District Agricultural Society hosted a reception for their Western Events and Cultural Centre capital campaign on April 4 at the Four Sisters Farm. There were plenty of dignitaries invited, including (from l-r) Chantelle de Jonge (Chestermere-Strathmore MLA), Joe Schow (Cardston-Siksika MLA and Cabinet Minister for Tourism and Sport), W. Brett Wilson and Ryan Schmidt (Strathmore & District Agricultural Society CEO/General Manager). **Joe Lepage Photo**

A wait list has since been created in order to follow up with interested parties once the event centre is closer to being finished construction.

“We are very excited to see the response, and it fits with what we saw in our feasibility study; there is a huge demand for premier western event spaces like this and performing arts theatre as

well; it is greatly needed in the community,” he said. “The project resonates with people, whether it is one of the facilities that are located in the project, whether it is the western events arena, the performing arts theatre, or one of the programs: the practical ranching school, and the year-round rodeo academy, it is striking a chord.”

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The Cost.

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Town to examine partnership with Rescued Paws at Alpine Foundation

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Rescued Paws at Alpine Foundation presented before the Town of Strathmore council, during the April 3, regular meeting to discuss the potential for a centralized facility to support the business and rehoming of dogs.

“Our biggest challenge is that we do not have a permanent location to operate out of on a daily basis,” said Kyla Janes, executive director of the Rescued Paws at Alpine Foundation. “Right now, we have had to halt all intakes for any local dogs or strays that are in Strathmore and the county, as well, due to the fact that we were so overwhelmed over the last year and a half.”

She added during the aforementioned time period, over 200 dogs were taken in and rehomed from their home-based family business, which incurred roughly \$200,000 of expenses to pull off.

These included a mix of surrendered animals due to the housing crisis, unwanted puppies resulting from a lack of sterilization, as well as abandonment cases coming from both within the Town of Strathmore, and Wheatland County.

“One of our goals is to be able to work with the town – number one, we have already set in place working relationships with Fame and Prospects from Calgary, which helps a lot with a lot of our adolescents who are looking for job place-

ments in the future,” said Janes. “One of the biggest things that would be beneficial is having the building that would be in town; it would be a lot easier for our Fame volunteers to come and help work there a little bit more often.”

She added the use of the requested building would also aid in being able to host more adoption and awareness events, and host dogs temporarily.

During the delegation, it was presented that use of a building would be solely for the purpose of housing and caring for rescued dogs, and would be in compliance with any and all regulations set forth by the town.

Coun. Denise Peterson, following the presentation, inquired to Rescued Paws regarding the potential value they may be able to add to the community, as their request for building space from the town is similar to the established agreement held with Happy Cat sanctuary.

Alicia O’Keefe explained details regarding those contributions may be presented to council via a five- or 10- year plan, which would estimate contributions should the organization have access to a centralized facility.

Council directed administration to examine the feasibility of forming a value-added partnership with Rescued Paws following the presentation.

More information is presented via the council meeting agenda, as well as through the recorded meeting minutes.



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County approves tax rate bylaw

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Wheatland County approved the third and final reading of its Tax Rate Bylaw 2024-09 during the April 3 special council meeting.

During the regular council meeting which took place April 2, council passed both first and second readings of the bylaw.

Additionally, council approved the 2024 final operating and capital budgets with a directive to increase overall property tax revenue by three per cent.

Council was unable to pass third reading of the bylaw during the April 2 meeting due to unanimous consent to hold the third reading during the same meeting not being granted. Supplementary information at the time was requested for reserves.

Through council’s request, administration provided a breakdown of the 2024 approved operating budget reserves, which is also publicly available via the April 3 special meeting of council agenda package.

The 2024 final operating budget as approved by council, April 2, consists of a total net drawdown of reserved by approximately \$2.1 million, which comes from several increases and decreases in expenses, detailed in the report.

According to the Municipal Government Act, municipalities are required to pass a balanced budget through their annual reviews.

The figure presented as the “Operating Budget Balancing” in the agenda is a budgeted draw from reserves, driven by cost pressures taking place

over multiple years.

This is also part of a strategy chosen by council in order to defer tax revenue increases in order to incentivize future growth and relieve present day financial pressures on county residents.

The approved 2024 capital plan also does not include any additions of Local Government Fiscal Framework (LGFF) or Canada Community Building Fund (CCBF) grant values for 2025 through to 2028.

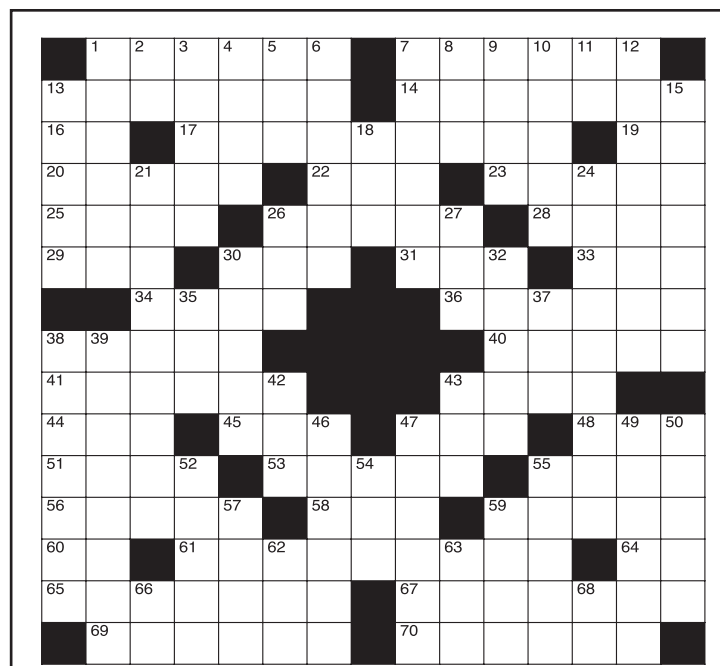
For the purposes of projecting reserves, administration has presented the 2024 grant amounts being assumed for all years and using them to reduce the required draw on reserve funded projects.

Additionally, the administration has noted the county is often able to obtain Strategic Transportation Infrastructure Program (STIP) grant funding. This is an application-based program which is not factored into the projection, though was presented as important to consider as a possible reduction in the requirements to draw from county reserves.

The current 2024 year was presented with a placeholder in the capital projections in the hopes that the county will receive \$1.75 million in STIP funding.

Total reserves which will be maintained by the county are projected using the assumptions made in the capital and operating plans.

More information, as well as exact numbers and figures are available via the recorded county meeting minutes, as well as via the public meeting agenda.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Island nation
- 7. Platforms
- 13. Project plan
- 14. French fishing port
- 16. South Dakota
- 17. Oakland’s baseball team
- 19. Military policeman
- 20. Ornamental stone
- 22. Garland
- 23. Process that produces ammonia
- 25. Mousses
- 26. Music notation “dal _”
- 28. Fail to win
- 29. Peyton’s little brother
- 30. Not near
- 31. Some cars still need it
- 33. Lizard genus
- 34. An idiot (Brit.)
- 36. Postponed
- 38. African country
- 40. Gazes unpleasantly
- 41. In a way, traveled
- 43. Ukraine’s capital
- 44. Appropriate
- 45. Dash
- 47. Twitch
- 48. Swiss river
- 51. Data file with computer animations
- 53. City in S. Korea
- 55. Particular region
- 56. They have eyes and noses
- 58. Tear
- 59. Large Madagascan lemur
- 60. Not out
- 61. Ornamental saddle covering
- 64. A driver’s license is one
- 65. Latin term for charity
- 67. Rechristens
- 69. Objects from an earlier time
- 70. Hindu male religious teachers

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Used as a weapon
- 2. Yukon Territory
- 3. Makes a map of
- 4. An established ceremony prescribed by a religion
- 5. Unnilhexium
- 6. Merchant
- 7. Playing the field
- 8. Folk singer DiFranco
- 9. Something to scratch
- 10. Mexican agave
- 11. Equal to one quintillion bytes
- 12. Session
- 13. North American people
- 15. Ranches
- 18. Electroencephalograph
- 21. A type of compound
- 24. Avenue
- 26. High schoolers’ test
- 27. A type of meal
- 30. Gradually disappeared
- 32. Ancient Frankish law code
- 35. Popular pickup truck
- 37. Buzzing insect
- 38. Deal illegally
- 39. Lying in the same plane
- 42. Obstruct
- 43. Related
- 46. Challenge aggressively
- 47. Nocturnal hoofed animals
- 49. Bird’s nests
- 50. Forays
- 52. ___ B. de Mille, filmmaker
- 54. Title of respect
- 55. One-time name of Vietnam
- 57. Self-immolation by fire ritual
- 59. Private school in New York
- 62. Political action committee
- 63. A way to fashion
- 66. Email reply
- 68. “The Great Lake State”

STRATHMORE TIMES

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Great performance

Drew Gregory and his talented wife Erin performed at the Hope Bridges Community Concert on April 2 at the Hope Community Covenant Church. Drew is a multi-award winning musician, most recently Horizon Male Artist of the Year. The duo performed hits such as "Jackson" by Johnny Cash and June Carter-Cash and finished the concert with a preview of his upcoming single "This Side of the Dirt" which releases April 12. The concert also highlighted the vocal talents of the members of The Hope Bridges Music Discovery program.

Melissa Piche Photos



County discusses request for financial support for new hospice and lodge by WHMB board

Continued from Page 1

"Further, council's access to information has been limited by the board's repeated lack of transparency. Where are the building committee meeting minutes? Reports of work done? There has been zero accountability to the public."

Link added she wished to table a letter to Jason Nixon, minister of seniors, community and social services outlining concerns held regarding the governance of the WHMB, and a governance review of the board that was completed.

The letter discusses inaccuracies and misrepresentations in the WHMB review report, overreach in governance review and a lack of autonomy respect, issues with board appointments, dismissal of concerns raised about governance dynamics, conflicts of interest, and several other concerns.

It was suggested during the regular meeting of council to delay approving a letter of support until more information was able to be presented by county administration, as opposed to

immediately, as per the WHMB request.

Coun. Shannon Laprise reminded council, in February 2023, Derek Weiss, of the WHMB, attended a county council meeting to present the financial summary of the Wheatland Lodge project at that time. It was reported there would be a \$40 million Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) loan, a \$7 million Affordable Housing Partnership Program (AHPP) grant, and \$6 million from municipal contributions for a total cost of roughly \$53 million.

She added in April 2023, she had requested of the WHMB to acquire a financial analysis to clearly show how requisitions were calculated.

"We received a very detailed spreadsheet that showed exactly how the projected revenue and expenses our municipal portion of \$700,000 would work towards - there is also another financial consideration, a debt contribution ratio which is required for a CMHC loan," said Laprise. "When we looked at that spreadsheet, I noticed that there were some mistakes in it and that the spreadsheet showed not \$39 million, but \$28 million from CMHC. In June (2023) we had another meeting; we discussed the numbers, and I found that the Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP) grant went from \$7 million to \$14 million."

Laprise expressed concerns that financials surrounding the project are not being properly communicated to the WHMB, nor to the public.

She added, she, as well as the WHMB chairman do not know the up-to-date total costs of the project, the AHPP amount, or the CMHC amount.

A motion made by Laprise to conditionally support the request for finances from the WHMB was passed following amendments by council.

The passed motion provides support contingent on a letter indicating ministerial support for the sum of \$14 million for the project, an update from Weiss to update the financial proforma from May 2023 and provide it to all WHMB board members, answers to a council-approved list of questions to be provided to all councils of the Management Body board, the WHMB request quarterly updates of this analysis and the project progresses and costs change, and that the WHMB provide to all municipal partners each time the analysis is redone to the information of the total project cost, and the AHPP portion.

The motion was passed in a vote of 5-2 in favour.

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Thought for the Week

Do humans have an infinite capacity for self-justification.

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Wheatland County tours Airdrie Shasta facility

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Members of Wheatland County council, as well as Chestermere-Strathmore MLA Chantelle de Jonge, were given a tour of the Shasta Care Community building in Airdrie, Apr. 4.

The tour of the facility acted effectively as a follow up to a presentation made by Doug Murphy, codeveloper with Newport Senior Living Ltd. to the county, Feb. 13.

"I was really grateful for the opportunity to tour Shasta's Airdrie Care Community. I was impressed. It was so modern, but also cozy, and the commitment to the Eden alternative philosophy, I thought, was a beautiful foundation for preserving the dignity and respecting our communities like seniors," said Wheatland County Reeve Amber Link. "I'd also say there was evidence of implementation of that Eden philosophy all throughout the tour and the community was markedly different from other supportive living facilities I visited and I am certainly grateful that that quality of care is coming to our community."

Shasta received a signed commitment letter for funding 54 long-term care space, 18 supportive living Level 4 spaces, 18 supportive living memory care spaces, and six hospice spaces in the Town of Strathmore with Alberta Health Services in October 2023.

The team behind the facility aims to have shovels in the ground this summer, with an approximately 14-month completion time.

"We obviously had a presentation from Doug Murphy regarding the contract that he was awarded with AHS for the care community in Strathmore, and one thing that we have realized is that there isn't a high degree of awareness in the



community about that contract and about the project that will be coming to the Town of Strathmore," added Link. "Additionally, we recognize that there may be concerns in the community around the fact that it's a private operator who is building that care community. And so, for me, I wanted to visit one of Doug's communities and actually witness firsthand what it was like."

Link also emphasized the "highly stringent" regulatory framework which exists in Alberta for all facilities, regardless of being privately or publicly funded or operated.

She added she feels the local region is in need of innovative ways to ensure seniors are cared for and that they can retire and live with dignity in the final years of their lives.

"I have complete confidence that Shasta will provide that for our residents in the care community that they are building in Strathmore," said Link.

An exact date for when shovels will hit the ground has not yet been established for the care facility.



Members of Wheatland County council, as well as Chestermere-Strathmore MLA Chantelle de Jonge, toured the Shasta community care facility in Airdrie, April 4, to get a better idea of what the facility intended to be built in Strathmore will look like, how it will function, and how it will serve the community.

John Watson Photos

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YOUR WEEKLY HEALTH ADVICE
Gord Morck Pharmacist



Capsule Comments

British Columbia has a goal of eliminating cervical cancer. As of February 2024, patients could order an at-home HPV self-screening test kit. This test looks for the virus that could result in cervical cancer. The pap test is traditionally used to screen for abnormal changes in the body that could lead to cancer. The decision was made based on rigorous trials with over 20,000 women. Results showed that this home-HPV screening was more effective in identifying those with pre-cancerous lesions compared to conventional pap smears.

Of course, there is a vaccine that **prevents** cervical cancers (among others). It's the HPV vaccine and it's available free through school-based programs in all provinces and territories in Canada. Individuals under the age of 15 are given 2 doses. Those over 15 will get three doses.

Recently, there was a story about the governor of Florida wanting to import drugs from Canada to save the state money. It didn't happen but it did highlight the fact that generic drug prices in Canada are 45% lower than in the U.S. This is because in Canada there is a review board that negotiates generic drug prices to be as low as possible. The U.S. has no such board.

The discovery of *Prontosil* marked the beginning of modern antibiotic therapy. The drug received wide publicity in 1936 when it was used to treat President Roosevelt's son who had a severe streptococcal infection. This discovery was followed by penicillin which was used during WWII and saved many lives.

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Providing recovery-oriented care to Albertans

CHANTELLE DE JONGE
Chestermere-Strathmore MLA

This past week, as part of the Alberta government's efforts to refocus the health care system, several announcements were made.

The first announcement was regarding a new mental health and addiction organization, Recovery Alberta, which will be the first of four new organizations that will ultimately be responsible for overseeing and delivering health care services across the province. Recovery Alberta heralds a new era of focused care delivery. With a mandate to assume responsibility for existing mental health and addiction services previously managed by AHS, Recovery Alberta embodies a commitment to providing timely, recovery-oriented care to Albertans in need.

Additionally, to continue the innovative work required to improve the mental health and addiction system, our government is creating the Canadian Centre of Recovery Excellence (CoRE) to inform best practices in mental health and addiction, conduct research and program evaluation, and support the development of evidence-based policies. CoRE will be established as a Crown corporation through legislation that will be introduced this spring.

Alberta's government is delivering on a commitment to provide funding to help family doctors with their administrative costs so they can devote more time to seeing patients. Additional one-time funding has been provided to the Alberta Medical Association (AMA) as part of a December 2023 commitment of \$200 million over two years to stabilize primary health care. The AMA will distribute the funding to eligible family physicians and rural generalists. Approximately 3,000 family doctors are eligible to receive transition funding of \$24,000 to \$40,000. The amount a family physician and rural generalist will receive depends on the number of patients they have.

Our government is also investing \$224.8 million through

Budget 2024 to help train more physicians in rural areas and will be supporting collaborative efforts from the University of Alberta, University of Calgary, University of Lethbridge, and Northwestern Polytechnic to develop new Rural Medical Education Program Training Centres in Lethbridge and Grande Prairie.

We are committed to refocusing Alberta's health care system to ensure Albertans can get the right care, when and where they need it. Through this refocusing, we will create a more effective, unified health care system that supports Albertans for generations to come.

As always, please feel free to contact me with your feedback or concerns at Chestermere.Strathmore@assembly.ab.ca.

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



Chantelle de Jonge, MLA
Chestermere-Strathmore

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CAMBRIDGE GLEN 216 Cambridge Cr 260 Cambridge Cr 299 Cambridge Cr 200 Camden Court	GREEN MEADOW 43 Green Meadow Cr 82 Green Meadow Dr				GROUPS/BUSINESSES <u>The Gathering Ranch</u> 235038 Range Rd 253 <u>Overnight Shelter</u> 102 Canal Gardens <u>Sagewood</u> 150 Cambridge Glen Dr <u>Strathmore Building Supplies</u> 42B Spruce Park Dr

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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 16: Council Meeting

May 7: Council Meeting

May 14: Municipal Planning Commission

May 14: Public Presentation Committee

To join the call, dial 403-917-1764 and enter the PIN 47001 when prompted.

Agenda packages can be found on our website.

Public Hearings

Wheatland County Council Chambers April 16th, 2024 at 9 a.m.

Wheatland County will consider the following applications for Public Hearing at the regular Council meeting on Tuesday, April 16th, 2024.

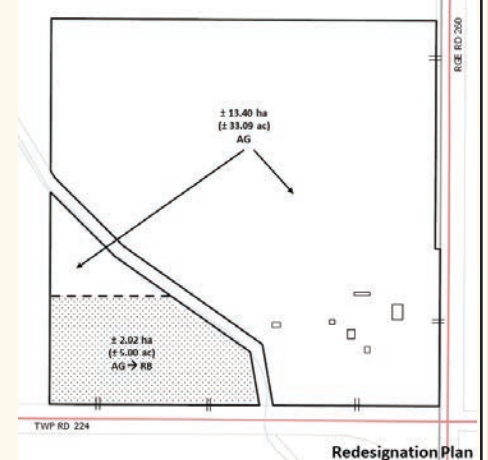
The following public hearings begin at 9 a.m. and proceed until all applications have been heard:

Bylaw #: 2023-30

Legal Description: LSD 1 within SE-25-22-26-W4M

Proposal: To redesignate a ± 2.02 hectare (± 5.00 acre) portion of LSD 1 within SE-25-22-26-W4M from Agriculture General (AG) District to Rural Business (RB) District to facilitate the development of a distillery operation and restaurant business.

Comments may be forwarded in writing to Wheatland County or in person at the above meeting. The application files may be reviewed in the County Office during regular office hours – Monday to Friday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Any comments provided will become part of the public record in accordance with Section 40 (1) of the Alberta Freedom of Information and Protection Privacy Act. Any personal information on submissions made regarding applications is collected under the authority of the FOIP Act Section 33 (c) and subsequent versions of the Act.



2024 Dust Control Program Now Open

Wheatland County is now accepting orders for the 2024 Dust Control Program!

Dust control is offered by Wheatland County for landowners or residents within the County who wish to reduce the amount of dust created by vehicles traveling on the gravel roads near their homes, businesses, or farms.

Calcium Chloride:

- First Round: Application deadline is May 17, 2024 (Weather permitting, application will occur starting May 21)
- Second round: Application deadline is June 7, 2024 (Weather permitting, application will occur starting June 10)

Oiling:

- Application deadline is July 5, 2024 (Weather permitting, application will occur during July)

For more information and to complete an order form, visit our website at <https://wheatlandcounty.ca/documents/dustcontrol/>



Address: 242006 Range Rd 243, Wheatland County, AB T1P 2C4
Phone: 403-934-3321
Office Hours: Mon-Fri 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
[@wheatlandcounty](http://www.wheatlandcounty.ca)





Trevor McKinnon (l-r) and daughter Tavia (13) and son Nolan (15) refereed the female championship game between U11 Wheatland Wranglers and Camrose on March 11.

Joe Lepage Photo

Family makes the call on ice

MELISSA PICHE
Times Contributor

When the McKinnon family went to the Strathmore Family Centre to lace up their skates last month, it was nothing new for Trevor and his son Nolan (15) and daughter Tavia (13).

The trio have refereed over 75 combined games this past season.

However, on March 11, it was different, as the trio refereed the female championship game between U11 Wheatland Wranglers and Camrose.

"It's fun reffing with my two kids on the ice, working together as a family," said Trevor, who was the lead official during the game, while his children were linesmen.

He has been a ref for about 15 years - on and off - and loves the sport. He took a few years off and recently got back into it because Tavia was showing an interest and was old enough to take the course.

This was Tavia's first year as an official and Nolan has been a ref for three years now. The siblings have followed in their father's footsteps, and they enjoy getting paid for something they love to do.

"It was so much fun to watch. I have so much fun working with my kids on the ice," said Trevor. "My goal this season was to have one game all together."

Mission accomplished.

Nolan reffed roughly 50 games this season; he would ref 2-3 games each weekend, as well as play for his own

team, the Strathmore Storm U18B team.

Tavia reffed an impressive 25 games and played for the U15 Wheatland Wranglers. Trevor reffed around five games and was an assistant coach for both of his children's hockey teams.

"It took me about two hours," said Tavia of the online portion of the course, which is mandatory for a first-year of referee. "And then an in-class portion, takes about eight hours - the same time as a school day, which has on-ice time and also learning time."

Nolan and Trevor are Level 2 refs, and had to do a course this year to maintain their refereeing status.

"It was an in-class course, which went over some new rules (and the course lasted) about eight hours," said Nolan. "There were a lot of changes and I learned a lot."

The McKinnon family would encourage anyone interested in becoming a referee to go out and do it.

"It's a fun job if you like hockey - I definitely recommend it," said Tavia. "You get to skate around and basically watch a hockey game and choose the calls while getting paid."

It's a win-win situation.

"You're making money while exercising and you're supporting the game that you love by helping younger players develop the love for the game," said Nolan.

If you are interested in becoming a hockey referee, visit Hockey Alberta's website. Clinics run beginning in August.



Enchanted Project

The annual Enchanted Project was held April 5-6 at the Hope Community Covenant Church. The event, hosted by Lil Hoots Boutique, is a chance for grads to buy a prom dress or tuxedo for a fraction of the price of a new one.

Joe Lepage Photos

Strathmore Farmers Market Annual Mothers Day Market

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Wheatland County responds to ongoing county vs Koester court ruling appeal

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Wheatland County has released a statement regarding the ongoing legal conflict, following the decision to appeal the Court of King's Bench ruling in the Koester versus Wheatland County, 2024 ABKB 103 case.

During the March 15 special meeting of council, the county voted 4-2 in favour of the appeal. Koester excused himself from the vote, citing a conflict of interest to the decision.

As discussions were taking place regarding whether to approve the appeal, Coun. Richard Laursen inferred that taxpayer dollars would be utilized for the conflict to continue.

"Although council did not initiate this court process, county procedure dictates that we defend decisions made at council," said Reeve Amber Link. "To be clear, the county has not incurred legal

fees related to this appeal or for defending the case brought by Koester. Like most municipalities across Alberta, Wheatland County is insured against legal claims of this nature."

In the written statement released by the county, it is also noted that all councillors should be aware of this insurance, and administration has communicated it clearly to all of council.

Reeve Link added she regretted not calling out the comment made by Laursen when it was made, stating the comment was misleading.

The statement by the county also addressed misconceptions about the impact the court proceedings and sanctions against Koester have had on the ability of councillors to fulfill their roles and duties.

"I want to clarify that these sanctions did not impede a councillor's ability to work on projects and advocate for the community," said Link. "Legislation that council operates under requires that any sanction imposed against a councillor may not impede their duty to govern as an elected official."

It was also noted in the county's statement, Koester has raised no concerns regarding the procedures for investigating a violation of the code of conduct bylaw while reviewing and approving the code of conduct bylaw on an annual basis.

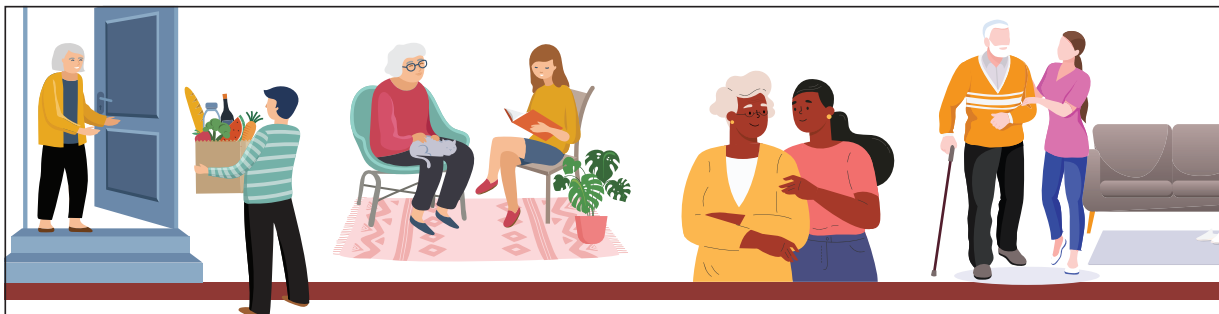
The statement made by the county cites a 2015 code of conduct issue, which occurred while Koester was reeve, suggesting statements made then contradict his current position on how the code of conduct violation was handled.

That incident being the censure of Brenda Knight by Wheatland County council. At the time, Koester had stated code of conduct violations being held in-camera were typical of a labour discussion. Legal negotiations would also go in-camera to be discussed with a lawyer.

Though the details of the censure at that time were not made public, the censure was eventually lifted by council.

Link declined to comment further regarding council's position on the current legal proceedings such as to not accidentally compromise the integrity of the investigation.

(With files from the Strathmore Times, April 16, 2015 and Nov. 5, 2015)



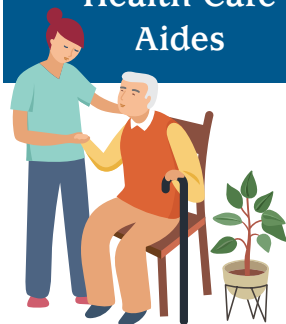
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ASB receives presentation regarding farm mental health

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Agricultural Research and Extension Council of Alberta (ARECA) presented before the Wheatland County Agriculture Service Board (ASB), April 3, in order to discuss Agknow, a mental health network for Alberta farmers.

“There has been recent research about farm mental health and the mental health state of our farmers across Canada, and it is aligning very strongly with what (was) found in Australia and Europe and the United States, that farmers are experiencing higher rates of anxiety, chronic stress and depression than the regular population,” said Linda Hunt, director of AB Farm Mental Health for ARECA. “This is for many, many reasons ... and the research is also showing that farmers are really resilient ... as a farmer and an agrologist, I can say that there are a lot of stressors

that farmers have, and because of those stressors ... we have weeded out over the number of hundreds of years and have this culture that tends to be more resilient.”

She explained those who were studied tended to be proficient at reframing, planning ahead, and accepting factors completely outside of their control.

Hunt’s presentation indicated 76 per cent of farmers experience moderate to high stress levels, and 20 per cent experience moderate to severe anxiety disorders.

Additionally, one in four farmers examined indicated feelings that their lives were not worth living, wished they were dead or had thoughts of suicide within 12 months of being studied.

“What the research is showing is that it is not usually one event, but it is a combination of a whole bunch of events stacked on top of each other, so it is not just drought for one or two years, it is drought,

plus regulation changes, plus, plus, plus,” she said. “In Canada, we are experiencing a lot of changes especially in the oil and gas sector and those changes are affecting not only their farming operations, but often are affecting off-farm work that farmers are doing to manage the risk on the farming side – a lot of those jobs are in oil and gas.”

Members of the ASB indicated to Hunt having noticed within the local community, factors contributing to rising stress, anxiety and depression in farmers being rising input costs, decisions on marketing, weather and drought, chronic pain, isolation and loneliness, the lack or poor timing of government programs, influence by factors outside their control, and perceptions from the public.

More information regarding the presentation is available via the recorded meeting minutes from the ASB meeting, posted publicly to the Wheatland County YouTube channel.

Threat of aquatic invasive species

FROM THE OFFICE OF MARTIN SHIELDS

Martin Shields, Member of Parliament for Bow River released the following statement on threat of aquatic invasive species (AIS) to the ecosystems and economies of the Province of Alberta:

“Over the past few weeks, I have been engaged with stakeholders, constituents, and colleagues alike to understand how MPs can contribute to the fight against aquatic invasive species in Alberta. I met with both the Alberta Invasive Species Council and the Ontario Invasive Species Centre, the former providing a briefing with suggestions for all levels of government. I am pleased to see some of these sug-

gestions implemented in Alberta’s announcement.

“I would like to acknowledge and thank the Government of Alberta for its recent announcement in taking action to protect Alberta’s aquatic ecosystems and economies from Zebra-Quagga Mussels (ZQM). Increasing watercraft inspection stations, adding dedicated inspectors, and creating an AIS taskforce are important steps in ensuring our province remains free of ZQM, as well as mitigating impacts of other AIS. However, it’s important to note there is more work to be done – and further action should be considered.

“At the federal level, conservatives are committed to keeping Alberta and western-waters ZQM free –

and we will continue to pressure the federal government to take action to prevent impending disaster.”

“A letter concerning the growing threat of AIS signed by 44 conservative MPs (22 from Alberta) has been addressed and sent to the prime minister directly. It calls to ‘prioritize resources and initiate urgent, immediate actions necessary to prevent permanent ecological and economic damages that will be inflicted if your government continues in its failure to provide the leadership required to protect our waters.’

“I, along with my conservative team look forward to continuing engagement with provincial counterparts and stakeholders to ensure Alberta waters remain ZQM free.”

RCMP proactive patrols lead to officers interrupting crime

GLEICHEN RCMP

On Feb. 22, at 1 p.m., Gleichen RCMP were on patrol when they witnessed an armed robbery outside the Gleichen Liquor Store on Main Street. Officers saw a male exit the liquor store carrying a bottle of vodka, being followed by a store employee. The male pulled a knife on the employee and then walked northbound into a residential area. Police pursued and arrested the male, finding in his possession methamphetamine, fentanyl, and other weapons.

Justin Brett Decoux (32), a resident of Lloydminster,

was charged with robbery, uttering threats, possession of a controlled substance (x2), possession of weapon for a dangerous purpose (x3), possession of ammunition while prohibited, possession of an explosive substance while prohibited and possession of weapon while prohibited.

After a Judicial Interim Release Hearing, Decoux was remanded into custody and will be appearing next in Alberta Court of Justice in Cochrane on April 9.

On March 26, 2024, at 1:30 p.m., Gleichen RCMP on patrol witnessed a male waving a machete around

outside Gleichen Family Foods on Main Street. Police saw the male yelling at people on the sidewalk while carrying the machete. Teddy Lyndon Yellowfly (34), a resident of Siksika, was arrested and charged with possession of weapon for a dangerous purpose and failing to comply with conditions.

After a Judicial Interim Release Hearing, Yellowfly was remanded into custody and will be appearing in Alberta Court of Justice in Siksika on April 11.

Gleichen RCMP want to assure their residents that they are diligent, dedicated and committed to keeping their community safe.



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ASB discusses authority to declare agricultural disasters

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

During the April 3 Agriculture Service Board (ASB) meeting, members discussed the delegation of authority for declaring agricultural disasters within the county, and the ASB bylaw.

“Wheatland County Council and the Agricultural Service Board (ASB) recognize the challenges agricultural producers may face during certain years of very poor growing conditions,” said George Bloom, agricultural fieldman with Wheatland County. “The ASB and council can help bring more broad awareness to these challenges through the local declaration of an agricultural disaster.”

During the regular meeting of council, July 4, council delegated the final decision for declaring an agricultural disaster for the 2023 growing season to the ASB.

The following day, during the ASB meeting, a motion was passed to make the declaration of an agricultural disaster.

Bloom noted council has in recent years, typically sought the opinion of the ASB, or has delegated authority to it when deliberating, and making decisions regarding whether or not to declare agricultural disasters.

An amendment to the ASB bylaw may allow council to streamline the process of declaring disasters by allowing the ASB an ongoing authority to declare within the county.

“The recommendation to delegate this authority to the ASB is being made under the premise of streamlining the associated administrative processes,” said Bloom. “Delegation of this authority does not preclude the ability of council to make the decision to declare an agricultural disaster should council wish to do so.”

According to legislation dictated in the Municipal Government Act, a council may by bylaw delegate any of its powers, duties, or functions under section 2023(1) or any other enactment or a bylaw to a council committee or any person unless an enactment or bylaw provides otherwise.

From the Alberta Emergency Management Act, “A local authority may, at any time when it is satisfied that an emergency exists or may exist in its municipality, by resolution or, in the case of the Minister responsible for the Municipal Government Act, the Minister responsible for the Special Areas Act or a park superintendent of a national park, by order, make a declaration of a state of local emergency relating to all or any part of the municipality.”

During the Oct. 4 ASB meeting, the board passed a resolution to direct administration to draft a revision to Bylaw 2019-19, adding a clause to delegate the authority to the Agricultural Service Board to declare Agricultural Disasters within Wheatland County.

This draft was to be brought back before the ASB, prior to being submitted for consideration before council.

Declarations of agricultural disasters serve the purpose of bringing awareness to issues within the province, though they do not trigger a provincial declaration, nor access to any funding or support for the issue directly.

Wheatland County ASB directed Bloom to present a report to Wheatland County council regarding the proposed addition to Bylaw 2019-29 to delegate authority to declare an agricultural disaster to the ASB.

This report will come forward in a future council meeting. The exact date was not indicated during the ASB meeting.

Mobile mammography service to visit Strathmore

ALBERTA HEALTH SERVICES

Women ages 45 to 74 – the group most at risk of developing breast cancer – will have local access to mammography services this month when Alberta Health Services’ Screen Test program visits Strathmore.

A mobile mammography trailer will be at the Peavey Mart Strathmore, 300 Edgefield Place, on April 8-13 and April 15-20.

Appointments are required. Residents can book an appointment or learn more about the program by calling 1-800-667-0604.

Screen Test is improving access to cancer screening for thousands of women in Alberta communities where mammography is not readily available.

A mammogram is an x-ray of the breast and has proven to be the most effective way to detect breast cancer. Early detection allows for a greater number of options for treatment and a better chance of survival.

Visit <https://screeningforlife.ca/breast/screen-test-mobile-clinics/> for more information and a complete listing of Screen Test mobile sites.

Alberta Health Services is the provincial health authority responsible for planning and delivering health supports and services for more than four million adults and children living in Alberta.

Our mission is to provide a patient-focused, quality health system that is accessible and sustainable for all Albertans. Our current focus is on reducing emergency department wait times, improving EMS response times, increasing access to surgeries, and improving patient flow.


SUDOKU

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TIMES CLASSIFIEDS

Obituary

CORBIELL, Ronald



Ronald Felix Corbiell, beloved husband, father, grandfather, and friend, passed away peacefully on April 3rd, 2024, in Strathmore, Alberta with his wife of 61 years, Bea, at his side. He was born on January 10th, 1939, in Calgary, Alberta to loving parents who instilled in him a strong work ethic and sense of duty towards others.

Ron's life was defined by his unwavering commitment to his family and community. After marrying the love of his life Beatrice (nee Lebel), he devoted himself wholeheartedly to providing for and nurturing their five sons – Mike (Rhonda), Don, Brian (Michele), Allan (Karen) and Patrick (Colleen).

Ron spent his entire life working in the Oil and Gas Industry. He grew up in Cluny before moving to Standard in 1962. He was an active member of the community and always volunteering. Ron volunteered in several areas, but he was especially fond of his time spent working with Project H.O.P.E. In 2015 he received the “Dr. Garry McKinnon, Champion of Children Award” from Project H.O.P.E. Ron was a long-time member of St. Rita's parish in Rockyford.

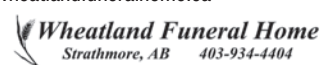
Ron was an avid reader and could go through many western books in a day. His other interests included the rodeo, coaching hockey, golfing and hunting. He was a proud father, grandfather and great-grandfather. Ron had a witty sense of humor that he has passed on to all his children. Ron is survived by his wife, 5 sons, 11 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild. Ron will forever be missed and so fondly remembered.

Ron was pre-deceased by his parents, Armand and Amy, and his sister Adele Rougeau. He is survived by his brother Armand (Mary Ellen) Corbiell and brother-in-law Martial (Carole) Rougeau.

A Funeral Mass will be held on Friday, April 12, 2024, at St. Rita's Parish in Rockyford at 11:00 a.m. Lunch to follow at Rockyford Community Hall.


If friends so desire, donations may be made directly to Project H.O.P.E. on their website at www.project-hope.ca

To send condolences, please visit Ron's obituary at www.wheatlandfuneralhome.ca


Strathmore, AB 403-934-4404

Obituary

ZAYTSOFF, Larry



Larry passed on unexpectedly on March 27, 2024. He is survived by his wife Diana; daughters Tania (Adam) and Jessica; grandson Jet; brother David; as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

Larry was predeceased by infant son William Gregory, his parents William and Polly Zaytsoff and brothers William, Nick, and Fred Zaytsoff.


Larry was born in Queenstown, AB to William and Polly Zaytsoff on October 15, 1944. After High School Larry worked in Vulcan for a while and then moved to Calgary. It was there that he met his future wife Diana Hanson. They were married in Milo, AB on July 08, 1972. Our daughters Tania and Jessica completed our family in 1974 and 1977.

Larry spent most of his adult life working in the real estate industry. He worked for new home builders and helped many families in the Maplewood area of Strathmore with their purchase of a new home. At the time of his passing, he was working at RE/MAX Realty Horizon Strathmore. Larry loved sports and played basketball with the Strathmore RCMP when he moved to Strathmore with his wife Diana and daughters in 1980.

Larry was a devoted husband and father. Always ready to help us, listen to us and make us laugh.

A Memorial service was held on Saturday, April 6, 2024, at Lord of All Lutheran Church (Strathmore) at 3:00 p.m.

To send condolences, please visit Larry's obituary at www.wheatlandfuneralhome.ca


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Upcoming Council Meetings

April 10, 2024 | 6 P.M.
 April 17, 2024 | 6 P.M.
 May 1, 2024 | 6 P.M.

Committee of the Whole
 Regular Meeting of Council
 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.



Trash to Treasure

April 11 to 15, 2024

Trash to Treasure (TTT) Days encourage residents to put any usable items out prior to the Heavy Item Garbage collection so others can pick them up and give them a new home. This is a great opportunity to give unwanted items a new life while keeping them out of landfills.

Donators:

- Mark your unwanted but reusable items with an HIG tag and place at same location you would place items for HIG collection.
- At the end of the Trash to Treasure Days remove any items you want to keep.
- Leave items out that you want collected during HIG week.

Collectors:

- Take only items marked with a HIG tag.
- Respect others' properties.
- Do not discard unwanted items on another resident's lawn.

Heavy Item Garbage

April 15 to 19, 2024

Heavy Item Garbage (HIG) collection returns the week of April 15. HIG offers residents the opportunity to dispose of large residential waste, and is provided in conjunction with your curbside waste collection service. If you pay the residential garbage charge on your Town of Strathmore utility bill the HIG service is available to you.

Place all items at your regular garbage pickup location by 7 a.m. on April 15 and affix with an HIG sticker. Stickers are available for free at the Strathmore Municipal Building but must be picked up prior to April 15. HIG stickers will not be handed out the week of HIG.

- Washers, dryers, dishwashers, and stoves;
- Furniture (sofas, love seats, tables, chairs, dressers etc.;
- Mattresses, bed frames, and box springs;
- Carpet (must be rolled and no longer than 4ft);
- Separated/salvageable metal materials (small quantity);
- Small amounts of lumber (4ft length, bundled and tied);
- BBQs (propane removed).

Learn more about HIG or TTT at Strathmore.ca/HIG

Land Use Ammendment

Upcoming Public Hearing

1. **Purpose:** to permit the construction of two apartment buildings and a childcare facility.

Bylaw #24-03

Staff received an application for a land use re-designation (Bylaw No. 24-03) of 15 Bayside Place (Lot 1, Block 15, Plan 781 0935) by the Town on December 21, 2023. The proposed re-designation aims to permit the construction of two apartment buildings comprising 54 apartments and a Childcare Facility at 15 Bayside Place in Strathmore.



Lot 1, Block 15, Plan 781 0935
 (15 Bayside Place)

Public Hearing Process

A copy of the proposed bylaw can be found on the Town's website at Strathmore.ca/PublicHearing or may be inspected by the public during regular office hours, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday at the Strathmore Municipal Building (1 Parklane Drive, Strathmore, AB).

The Public Hearing will be held via ZOOM AND in Council Chambers at the Strathmore Municipal Building on **Wednesday, May 1, 2024**, commencing at **6 p.m.** with procedures in accordance with the *Municipal Government Act, Section 199* and the *Town of Strathmore Council Procedural Bylaw #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 or all of the proposed by-law, may present their concerns and/or suggestions by making a submission at the public hearing. Please contact Legislative Services by email at lsadmin@strathmore.ca no later than **noon on Wednesday, April 24, 2024**, in order to register to speak at the public hearing.

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 **noon on Wednesday, April 24, 2024** as outlined in *Bylaw #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 three 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.



We've recently finalized Strathmore's Hazard Reduction Burn Plan. This plan aims to assess grassland fuels on the landscape within the community, identify locations of high fire risk based on predicted fire behaviour, and prioritize and prescribe these areas for hazard reduction burning. Through this process, selected regions within town will undergo hazard-reduction burning treatment in March. This process will reduce the risk of wildfire, reduce the number of nuisance fires, and better prepare the community in the event of an approaching wildfire on the landscape.

Learn more about the plan at Strathmore.ca/HazardReduction



2023/2024
Property Assessments

Important dates

Notices mailed: February 15, 2024
7-days for receipt: February 21, 2024
Appeal deadline: April 23, 2024 (60-days after receipt)

Contact
 Wildrose Assessment Services: 403-343-3357

For more information visit Strathmore.ca/Assessment

Customer Inquiry Period

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:

1. **Review** the details on your assessment notice.
2. **Check** what makes up your property's assessment value and compare it with similar properties in your neighbourhood using Strathmore.ca/PropertySearch
3. **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 valuation group information ready.
4. **If you still disagree with your property's assessment**, you can file a formal complaint with the Assessment Review Board by the deadline stated on your latest property assessment notice. You can find information on this process by visiting Strathmore.ca/Assessment