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STRATHMORE

TIMES

VOLUME 15 ISSUE 50

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New church tour

Town passes 2024 budgets

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Town of Strathmore council voted during the Dec. 6 regular meeting of council to approve the recommended operating and capital budgets for 2024.

The town's operating budget has been approved at \$37,704,700, and the capital budget has been set at \$7,014,000, for a total combined \$44,718,700 for the 2024 budget.

Adopting the budget officially concluded the annual budget process, which began in May 2023. It is detailed under Section 242 of the Municipal Government Act that a municipality must adopt an operating budget for each calendar year, or may adopt an interim operating budget for part of a calendar year.

A draft of the town's recommended operating budget was released to council and the public as of Nov. 1, and a community engagement session regarding the budget was hosted in council chambers on Nov. 7.

"We had an increase in members of the public (who) came and actually asked questions and ... I felt that they were very satisfied in the responses that they received," said Leana Ashbacher, senior manager of financial services for the Town of Strathmore.

The town released a statement that the 2024 budget ensures it can continue to deliver the many services that Strathmore's residents and businesses rely on, as well as to be able to invest in new capital projects.

"Administration prepared the 2024 operating and capital budgets in alignment with council's 2022-25 Strategic Plan," said Kara Rusk, director of strategic, administrative, and financial services. "This year, the town followed an extensive process that included holding a Citizen Budget Café, a review of budget information requests, and deliberation of the proposed budget in November."

The total \$44,718,700 budget for 2024 equates to a 5.2 per cent levy increase over 2023. In relation to what the town has described as a "typical" home in Strathmore, assessed at \$391,000, this would equate to a property tax increase of roughly \$175 per year.

Continued on Page 4

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Kings in festive mood

STRATHMORE TIMES

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Coming to the rescue

The Strathmore Fire Department practiced rescues from frozen bodies of water on Dec. 10. The exercise saw a rescuer attached to a tether move across the ice surface to a victim, then be pulled to safety by a ground team. The practice was done at Kinsmen Lake.

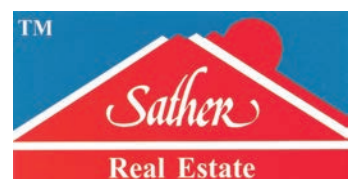
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but always near.
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and very dear.*

- Unknown

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Great concert

Sacred Heart Academy hosted their kindergarten Christmas concert on Dec. 7 at the school gym.

Joe Lepage Photos

Sacred Heart Church hosts public open house at construction site



Sacred Heart Church hosted an open house, Dec. 10, for parishioners and members of the public to see the progress on the building. The church is utilizing what used to be the IGA grocery store in Strathmore and will allow members of the church a formal place of worship 15 years after their previous church was decommissioned.

John Watson Photos

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The new Sacred Heart Church, which is currently under construction in Strathmore, hosted an open house, Dec. 10, for both members of the church, as well as the public to explore the building.

Formerly an IGA grocery store, the land and building were purchased by the church with intent to completely remodel the space into an adequate place of worship.

Parishioners of the Sacred Heart Church have been without a formal meeting place for the last 15 years, following the decommission and demolition of their previous church.

"We are undertaking to transform the inside, and you will see the outside will look quite a bit different too, to make it usable for us as a worship space," said Father Cristino Bouvette of the Sacred Heart Parish. "The speed at which (the space is being created), I think, is hopefully generating a lot of excitement among our parishioners who have waited so long that I think sometimes they wondered if they would ever see the day this church would be built."

Visitors to the construction site were allowed inside the church to explore the space and see for themselves the progress that has been made on remodeling. Numbers were somewhat restricted for safety reasons so that the site would not be overcrowded, but everyone was allowed to see the inside of the building.

The overall budget of the project, from the purchase of the land and building, to funding for its remodeling was set at approximately \$10 million. Bouvette explained a total greater than 60 per cent of the total budget was required to be put down before the remodeling began.

"We still have a way to go and it's not an insignificant way but I'm confident that we're at least heading in the right direction. The people who have been leading and spearheading our fundraising effort are incredibly inspiring and sacrificial with their time and their effort," he said. "That is only matched by the incredible generosity of the people in this community who have really stepped up and said, 'Yes, I want to help however I can.'"

In addition to contributions to the project made by people within the local community, the Sacred Heart Church is a part of the Diocese of Calgary and is able to benefit from funding from the greater organization.

Current projections for the completion of the church and its grand opening suggest it will be open to parishioners and the public in June 2024.

Chantelle de Jonge, MLA
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Town adopts new council remuneration policy

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Town of Strathmore council adopted a new remuneration policy during the Dec. 6 regular meeting, and simultaneously rescinded their previous policy, as was presented by administration.

The document governing council remuneration clarifies for sitting members of council, town administration and the public what expenses can be claimed for remuneration, as well as how claims can be made.

Remuneration and allowances are dictated regarding expenses incurred by sitting councillors, and/ or the mayor for services performed as part of their duties as members of council.

Nancy Tegtmeyer, senior manager of human resources with the Town of Strathmore, explained the changes to the policy are for the purposes of clarity and flexibility, as there would be no changes to compensation.

Coun. Denise Peterson inquired as to whether it was possible, in “exceptional circumstances” being an instance where a councillor may go beyond their respective per diem limits, to be compensated for their expenses.

Chief Administrative Officer Kevin Scoble said it is possible for a councillor to be reimbursed in exceptional circumstances from the town’s stabilization fund.

Previously, the policy required council to submit per diem claims on a monthly basis. Administration had recommended council amend the policy to state that claims must be submitted as soon as possible following the incur of an expense.

This change would allow for greater flexibility for claims, as it was indicated in the former procedure, it was not always possible to file a claim in the same month as an event.

Under the new policy, administration must also provide council with a quarterly statement covering individual expense budgets for sitting councillors and the mayor. Councillors shall be accountable to the mayor for the management of their individual budgets.

Operationally, the amended policy does not list any changes to the process for filing an expense claim.

The mayor and each sitting councillor are entitled under the remuneration policy to a maximum of \$4,000 each to claim per diems annually for attendance at events directly related to their duties as councillors. These conditions are listed in the publicly available policy document through the town website.

Also listed in the document are the salaries granted to the mayor and council, as well as the per diem rates a sitting member of council may file to claim for incurred expenses.

More information regarding council’s remuneration policy, as well as the complete document are publicly available via the town meeting agenda for Dec. 6, posted to the town’s website.



Great show

Hope Bridges hosted their free concert at the Hope Community Covenant Church on Dec. 5. The concert featured Flint and Feather, the husband-and-wife duo of Joal and Lauren Kamps. The pair’s music is described as Rocky Mountain folk-pop featuring some original hits as well as beloved favourites that delighted the intimate audience.

Melissa Piche Photos

Standard councillor steps down, byelection to be held in new year

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Carol Allard has officially submitted resignation from his position from Village of Standard council and has stepped down from his seat.

Allard has been sitting on council for the last two years. He explained his decision was not one that came with haste to make.

“It has been a while thinking about it. It is some personal and some professional reasons and I have just decided that it has been enough,” he said. “It has been good; it is not like sitting on any other board ... but the village was not exactly what I was expecting. Municipal council is hard to comprehend for some people in small towns like this.”

Prior to council, Allard has also served with the Lions Club, on multiple local hockey associations, and as a member and president of the local Legion branch.

Allard was also instrumental in having a part to play for the village to receive a grant to aid with their centennial celebrations in 2021.

“I wanted to be a part of the decision-making process and I wanted to try to help my community. It is such a good community out here and everybody is part of it,” he explained, citing his motivations to join council.

Village of Standard Mayor, Martin Gauthier, said

Allard’s decision was a surprise to him and the rest of council, but the village is grateful for Allard’s time and efforts towards bettering the community.

“He was there, he came in to be council, the same reason everybody else does, is to try and help the community do better and (thrive),” said Gauthier. “He has been good for council – he has had a lot of good ideas and moving forward hopefully we can continue on with making the community a better place.”

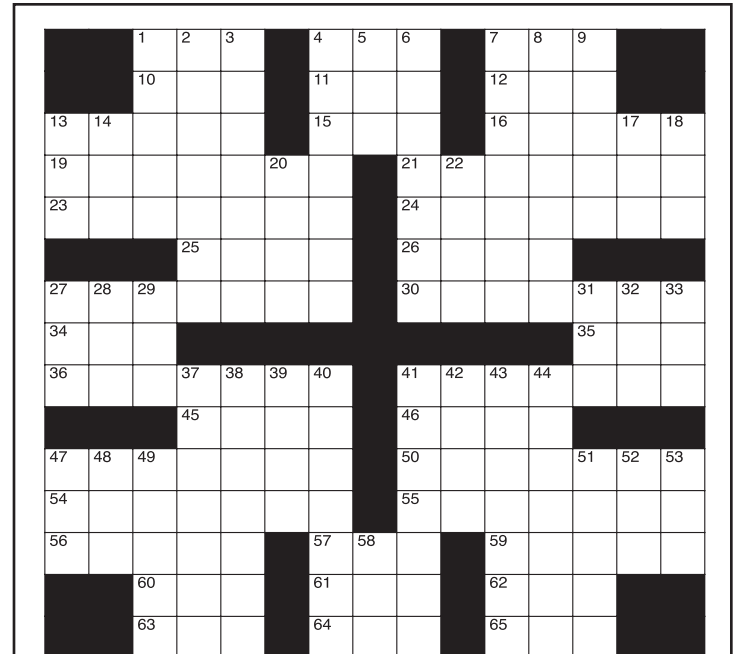
A byelection will be held in the new year in order to elect a replacement councillor to fill Allard’s seat. Nomination day will be held on Jan. 29.

If only one person is nominated or puts their name forward, they will win the seat by acclamation. If more than one name is put forward, a proper election will be held between the candidates for the vacant seat only. In that case, election day will be posted for Feb. 26.

“I hope that we can at least get one person to put their name up. It is a small town so I can see maybe we will have one or two. I do not think we are going to have six (applicants),” said Gauthier.

According to Allard, it is best to investigate what needs to be done before running for council.

“Keep an open mind on what needs to be done, do your research, then do your research again before making a decision to get in,” said Allard.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Mimic
- 4. Payroll firm
- 7. Perform in a play
- 10. Opine: __ philosophical
- 11. Crony
- 12. Political action committee
- 13. 1991 Wimbledon winner
- 15. Affirmative
- 16. Exclamation of disgust
- 19. Action of connecting
- 21. A way to calm
- 23. Especially fine or decorative clothing
- 24. Walked proudly
- 25. Group of people related through male heir
- 26. Supplemented with difficulty
- 27. Soft touch
- 30. Erases
- 34. Spanish river
- 35. A princess can detect it
- 36. Clouds of gas
- 41. A way to get through
- 45. Part of a book
- 46. Southwestern US state
- 47. Fields where rice is grown
- 50. Area in Ghana
- 54. Sayings
- 55. Involve deeply
- 56. Compels to act
- 57. “Ignore all rules”
- 59. Indoor entertainment space
- 60. Born of
- 61. Back muscle
- 62. Sea dweller
- 63. Tools that resemble an axe
- 64. Prefix denoting class or kind
- 65. Tooth caregiver

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Inspiring
- 2. Put into a box
- 3. Breathes out
- 4. Pacify
- 5. Patriotic society for women
- 6. Fell down
- 7. Clothing
- 8. Dishwasher detergent brand
- 9. Former French republic
- 13. Single lens reflex
- 14. Men’s fashion accessory
- 17. Consumed
- 18. Marry
- 20. __ up: intensifies
- 22. Body of water
- 27. People of southern Benin
- 28. Decorate a cake with frosting
- 29. Snag
- 31. Yearly tonnage (abbr.)
- 32. Records brain activity (abbr.)
- 33. Car mechanics group
- 37. Brought up to snuff
- 38. __ faire: Economic approach
- 39. Phil __, former CIA
- 40. Affixed
- 41. Period of adolescence
- 42. Substance
- 43. Danced
- 44. Baked without its shell
- 47. Parts per billion (abbr.)
- 48. Satisfaction
- 49. Balkans river
- 51. Christmas carols
- 52. Partner to tonic
- 53. “The Godfather” character Johnny
- 58. Swiss river



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Celebrating the Reason for the Season

Strathmore United Church:
 Dec. 24, 10:30 a.m. – Advent Four Worship
 Dec. 24, 7:30 p.m. – Candlelight Service

Strathmore Alliance Church:
 Dec. 24, 10 a.m. – Regular Worship
 Dec. 24, 6 p.m. – Candlelight Service

Hope Community Covenant Church:
 Dec. 24, 10 a.m.
 Dec. 24, 5 p.m. – Christmas Eve

St. Michael and All Angels Anglican:
 Dec. 24, 2:30 p.m.
 – Christmas Eve celebration

Lord of All Lutheran:
 Dec. 24, 10:30 a.m. – Children’s Service
 Dec. 24, 7:30 p.m. – Candles and Carols
 Dec. 25, 10:30 p.m. – Communion Service

RCCG Peculiar People Assembly:
 Dec. 24, 10:30 a.m.
 – Christmas Carol Service
 Dec. 25, 9:30 a.m. – Christmas Service

Harvest Healing:
 No morning service on the 24th.
 Dec. 24, 4 p.m.
 – Christmas Eve celebration

Sacred Heart Parish (HCC Gym):
 Dec. 24, 10 a.m./5 p.m./8 p.m.
 – Christmas Eve
 Dec. 25, 12 a.m. (Midnight Mass)/10 a.m.
 – Christmas Day
 Dec. 31, 10 a.m./5 p.m. – New Year’s Eve
 Jan. 1, 10 a.m. – New Year’s Day

Bow River Alliance Church:
 Dec. 24, 10:30 a.m.
 – Brunch and Carol Sing
 Dec. 31, 6 p.m. – New Year’s Eve
 Potluck and Game Night

Strathmore Full Gospel Church:
 Dec. 24, 10:30 a.m.
 – Christmas Sunday Service




Storm surge

The Strathmore Storm U13 Tier 2 team was firing on all cylinders when they beat Chestermere 11-1 on Dec. 10 at the Strathmore Family Centre. The Storm will now travel to Banff on Dec. 16 to take on Canmore before returning home the following day (12:15 p.m.) to host Chestermere again. **Joe Lepage Photo**



Super shutout

The Strathmore Storm U13 Tier 4 team improved to 6-1-0 on the season after a 9-0 win over Hanna on Dec. 10 at the Strathmore Family Centre. The Storm will now travel to Oyen on Dec. 17 to play their final game before the Christmas holiday. **Joe Lepage Photos**

Alberta on track for success

CHANTELLE DE JONGE
Chestermere-Strathmore MLA

With the fall session of the legislature coming to a close, I’m proud to report that Alberta remains on track for even more economic growth and prosperity.

This session saw our United Conservative government continue to deliver on its mandate to create jobs, attract investment, keep life affordable, protect law-abiding citizens, stand-up for our province against hostile policies from Ottawa, and more.

One of the major highlights of this session was the passage of the Taxpayer Amendment Act, which further strengthens Alberta’s position as the most taxpayer-friendly province in the nation. Among other things, this legislation protects Alberta families and businesses by prohibiting the government from increasing personal or business income taxes without first consulting Albertans through a referendum.

On the topic of referendums, this session also saw the passage of the Alberta Pension Protection Act, which ensures the government cannot move forward with a provincial pension plan without the explicit approval of Albertans in a referendum (I encourage you to visit AlbertaPensionPlan.ca to learn more and have your say about a potential Alberta Pension Plan).

Another standout achievement from this session was the passage of the Opioid Damages and Health Care Costs Re-

covery Amendment Act, which underscores our government’s commitment to protecting Albertans and holding those responsible for the opioid epidemic in our communities – including the manufacturers, distributors, and consultants – accountable.

While the NDP focused on sowing fear, anger, and division, United Conservative focused on the things that matter to Albertans, including standing up against Ottawa’s intrusion into areas of exclusive provincial jurisdiction. From Ottawa’s unaffordable 2035 net-zero regulations to its recently announced oil and gas production cap – our United Conservative government is standing strong and defending Alberta jobs, industries, and workers.

With 2024 and the Christmas season just around the corner, Albertans have a lot to celebrate. Our province is leading the nation in economic growth, has the lowest taxes, and is attracting record numbers of newcomers who want to participate in the renewed Alberta Advantage.

The dark days of the NDP are now far behind us. United Conservatives are moving Alberta forward, and our province’s best days are still ahead!

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

Council approves new budget

Continued from Page 1

With the approval of the Rate Bylaw, both variable and fixed utility rates in Strathmore were increased by approximately four per cent, averaging between the increases for residential and commercial uses. Residential saw an increase of 5.4 per cent, and commercial, 3.5 per cent, leading to that average.

The total utility infrastructure reserve fund rates were increased by one dollar from \$7.95 to \$8.95, equating to a 13 per cent increase.

“This process presented council with many challenges, as our residents and municipality have been dealing with the impacts of inflation for over a year,” said mayor Pat Fule. “I am proud that we were able to pass a budget that is fiscally responsible and supports our residents by investing in essential programs, services, and infrastructure.”

The overall tax increase is projected by town administration to be 5.2 per cent overall. In prior regular meetings of council, the town had expressed interest in keeping tax increases lower overall in comparison to surrounding municipalities within the province.

Full budget information for the town has been made public and is available through the town’s website.

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<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 God’s Closet Collects children’s clothing and distributes Feb., May, Aug. and Nov.</p>	<p>ST. MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS ANGLICAN Meeting in the Lutheran Church 112 Lakeside Blvd. • 587-727-0649 Rev. Malcolm Kern Sunday Worship 2:30 pm strathmoreanglican@gmail.com tinyurl.com/StrathmoreAnglican</p>
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<p>HARVEST HEALING CENTRE CHURCH 102 Canal Gardens 403-901-0893 / 403-880-3171 Pastor: Elizabeth Karp Pastor: Dave Mackie Worship Sundays 10:30 am Youth Tuesdays 7 pm Come join us for a spirit-filled time of worship</p>	<p>LORD OF ALL (NALC) LUTHERAN 112 Lakeside Blvd. • 403-934-2374 Pastor: Dawn Nelson Sunday Worship Services – 10:30 am Join us in Praising our Lord, Jesus Christ!</p>
<p>STRATHMORE UNITED Wheatland Trail & 3rd Avenue 403-934-3025 Rev. Pamela Scott Sunday Worship Services 10:30am Services posted on-line at: www.smoreuc.com Loop System for the Hearing Impaired W/C accessible</p>	



Kings with the assist

The Wheatland Kings hosted their annual Christmas Shopping with the Kings on Dec. 10 at both No Frills and Canadian Tire. The local Junior B team helped approximately 20 kids have a brighter Christmas and helped them pick out gifts for the special people on their list.

Joe Lepage Photos



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Hectic weekend

It was a busy weekend for the Wheatland Kings, as they played a pair of home games at the Strathmore Family Centre Dec. 9-10. The local Junior B team hosted a food drive and offered free admission during their 3-1 win over the Mountainview Colts on Dec. 9. The team hosted the Strathmore Storm U13B team and allowed them to sit on the bench during the first intermission. After hosting their annual Christmas Shopping with the Kings on Dec. 10, the Kings hosted the Coaldale Copperheads, winning 8-2.

Joe Lepage Photos



YOUR WEEKLY HEALTH ADVICE
Gord Morck Pharmacist
Capsule Comments

Cancer and heart disease are the top causes of death in Canada. But great progress has been made in treating both diseases and this holiday time of year is a good time to celebrate some of the positives of cancer and its treatment.

The past few decades have been a golden age for cancer research. Mortality rates have fallen from their peak levels in the mid-80s. Half of those who develop cancer now survive at least 10 years. There are fewer lung cancer deaths (thanks to people stopping smoking). Stomach cancers have reduced substantially as well as bowel cancer due to massive screening and early treatment.

Factors contributing to the declining death rates due to cancer include: great improvements radiation therapy; better screening programs for breast, cervical and bowel cancers; more information available on how to prevent cancer (limiting sun exposure and smoking cessation); development of new and better drug therapies; and using a patient's genetic profile to design personalized treatments.

The development of Artificial Intelligence (AI) is promising in the diagnosis of cancer. Pancreatic cancer is one of the most difficult cancers to diagnose because it's often asymptomatic until it metastasizes. But the use of AI could lead to earlier detection and subsequent treatment of this and many other types of cancers.

With new research into new and more efficient diagnoses and treatments, this golden age of cancer will continue for many years to come until the ultimate goal is reached and we can say "Cancer is cured". Happy Holidays!

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Strathmore Run Club joins national 5K run for the holidays

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Strathmore Run Club is participating in a Canada-wide five kilometre run to raise money for Make a Wish Canada.

Members of the club can be seen running in the Strathmore community, having donned Santa suits to spread some holiday cheer and to make themselves known.

"This is something brand new that the Strathmore Run Club is doing. This is a nationwide run for celebrating Christmas, called the HoHoHoliday 5K Run," said Diana Baird, speaking on behalf of the Strathmore Run Club. "This is for anybody across Canada, and it can be done anytime during the month of December. We all ordered our Santa suits so that we could participate and spread some Christmas cheer."

The national fundraiser is supported by the purchase of the Santa suits by those who are interested in running the five kilometres.

Baird added that the fundraising portion from ordering the suits aside, members of the run club are largely participating just for the fun of it.

"The national program of it is a fundraiser for when we

signed up online and purchased our Santa suits, but for us we are primarily doing it just for fun and to make people smile and get a few honks from the cars who drive by."

This year marks the first occasion that the Strathmore Run Club is participating in this particular run. In order to give more opportunities for members to participate, the club ran formally on Dec. 10, and will again on Dec. 17.

Baird said 20 members of the Strathmore Run Club have indicated interest to run between the two scheduled days.

"This is always a busy time of year, we cannot get everybody together on a single day to do this run, so we decided to go with two Sundays to give more of our club members the opportunity to come out and run," she said. "One of the members and I went and did a trial run on Sunday (Dec. 3) and we ran along George Freeman and we got all sorts of people honking and waving at us which really made us feel good about it."

The aim, she added, is for this event to become an annual occasion for the Strathmore Run Club, and she hopes to encourage more people to come out and join in – Santa suits are optional, but folks are invited and recommended to wear holiday-themed attire.

Holiday Helper

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PIZZA 73

(403) 273-7373



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.

December 19: Council Meeting

January 9: Council Meeting

January 10: Agricultural Service Board

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 December 19th, 2023 at 9 a.m.

Wheatland County will consider the following applications for Public Hearing at the regular Council meeting on Tuesday, December 19th, 2023.

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

Bylaw #: 2023-17

Legal Description: Parcel F, Plan 1141FQ, and portions of LSD 4 & 5, all within SW-7-22-25-W4M (Carseland)

Proposal: To redesignate a ± 0.10 hectare (± 0.26 acre) portion of LSD 4 & 5 within SW-7-22-25-W4M from AG District to HC District in order to allow for a boundary adjustment between the subject lands, resulting in two parcels ± 0.26 hectares (± 0.65 acres) and ± 18.64 hectares (± 46.07 acres) in size.



Bylaw #: 2023-24

Legal Description: A portion of SE-18-24-25-W4M

Proposal: To redesignate a ± 5.67 hectare (± 14.00 acre) portion of SE-18-24-25-W4M from Agricultural General (AG) District to Rural Business (RB) District to facilitate the development of an Agricultural Support Services business.



Bylaw #: 2023-20

Legal Description: County-Wide

Proposal: To amend the Land Use Bylaw to update Specific Use Regulations and Land Use Districts. Areas under consideration include:

- Accessory buildings for Type 1 and Type 2 Home-Based Businesses, and
- Solar facilities as a discretionary use in the Industrial Intensive District.

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.



DATE:

December 19, 2023

TIME:

5:00 - 9:30PM

Holiday Train arrives at 8:35pm

LOCATION:

Gleichen, Alberta

CP tracks at 3rd Avenue & Crowfoot Street

Join CPKC and celebrate the holidays by listening to great music and donating to help your local food bank.

MUSICAL GUESTS:

**Dallas Smith
MacKenzie Porter**

#CPKCholidaytrain

cpkcr.com/holidaytrain



So, what can you expect?

- Local Vendor Market in the Gleichen Community Hall 5:00-9:30 PM
- Food Trucks 5:00-9:30 PM
- Hot Chocolate in the Community Hall

The CP Holiday Train raises awareness to nutritious food as a basic necessity, and food bank usage is on the rise across North America. The CP Holiday Train program is a way to help the fight against hunger. If you plan on attending the event, please bring a heart-healthy food donation.

WHEATLAND COUNTY INVITES APPLICATIONS FOR 2024 COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT FUNDING

Wheatland County recognizes that its residents utilize various recreational, cultural and other community enhancement facilities and resources and has established the Community Enhancement Fund to provide financial support for such venues and activities.

The Community Enhancement Fund provides grant funding from Wheatland County to enhance, promote, and support groups and organizations that bring a broad range of enjoyment, benefit, beautification, recreation, entertainment, participation, and enhancement projects to Wheatland County. The program is intended to invest tax payer dollars annually to support recreational, cultural and other community activities, facilities, and resources that are utilized by Wheatland County residents.

How to Apply:

Applications and Guidelines for the Community Enhancement Fund are available at the Wheatland County Office and on the County website: www.wheatlandcounty.ca/cefb

Deadline:

Applications must be post marked on or before January 31, 2024.

Please note that eligibility for 2024 funding is dependent on filing all previous funding reports with Wheatland County by January 31, 2024.

For more information please contact Jessica Salmon at 403-361-2021 or jessica.salmon@wheatlandcounty.ca



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



Matilda hits the stage

MELISSA PICHE
Times Contributor

The Strathmore High School (SHS) Drama 20 and 30 students are set to hit the stage with a family favourite, *Matilda* from Dec. 16-20.

SHS drama teacher Deanne Bertsch explained that the show will be double cast, meaning multiple students will get to play different roles including lead roles. This gives everyone an opportunity to play a part they are eager to play.

There are about 45 students in the cast, making it a larger production, but still manageable.

"It's a good number," she said. "It's a children's story for the Christmas season."

Bertsch said that *Matilda* isn't necessarily considered a Christmas production, however the whimsical aspect of the production is sure to delight families for the holiday season.

"They (SHS) started a tech theatre class for us a couple years ago and so we have tech kids in almost every class I teach," she said.

Bertsch said that having the tech kids in her class support her with the production aspect as they help in almost all of the productions she puts on. The tech students work on everything from set design, lighting, makeup, sound and costumes. She said that "every one of them does a different job."

Bertsch is also the teacher for the tech class and said that not everyone in the tech class participates in her drama classes.

"I get a lot of kids who aren't interested in performing, but do come to be a part of the production end, so it's really exciting," she said. "I think what's been exciting for me in this show, we didn't have any outside people come in to help. The kids, in the last few years, have really shown a lot of initiative in wanting to do some directing, do choreography, help with the music – so that's been really fun to see. We've had a lot of newer kids step up to choreograph some of the dances and kids that showed a big interest in directing



The Drama 20/30 classes at SHS rehearse for their upcoming performance of *Matilda*, set to hit the stage Dec. 16-20.

Melissa Piche Photos

this year so it's very much their (the students) production. It's always very exciting for me to see them take on leadership roles."

Another fun aspect of *Matilda* is some fun acrobatics. There is a specific sequence in *Matilda* that called for an acrobatic performance. Without giving too much away, Bertsch describes the role as a very dramatic story that the audience will love.

"Something else that's exciting for me is that there are some brand new kids to the theatre department this year. They saw *Grease* last year and said it looked like a lot of fun so they took the class. That always makes me happy when kids are brave enough to try something new even if they're in Grade 12," said Bertsch.

She has also noticed an increase in the international students joining drama.

"I'm always really proud of them," she said.

The show runs Dec. 16-20 nightly at 7 p.m. with matinees at 2 p.m. on Dec. 16-17. Tickets can be reserved in advance by calling 403-821-3203 or purchased at the door. Tickets are \$10 each.



PRESENTS

A special Christmas Matinee, showing

Miracle on 34th Street

Thursday, December 21, 1 pm
Joyland Theatre, Strathmore

Free seniors' matinee for those 55+

The concession will be open, so please remember to bring cash for popcorn and treats!

For further information, please email **Nancy** at btgalberta@outlook.com or by calling **403-361-7216**

www.bridgingthegapalberta.ca

WHEATLAND COUNTY

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.

December 19: Council Meeting

January 9: Council Meeting

January 10: Agricultural Service Board

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

Agenda packages can be found on our website.

Subdivision and Development Appeal Board Call for Members

Do you hold a strong interest in the decisions made by local government regarding subdivision and development permits? If so, seize the opportunity to apply and become a representative on the Subdivision and Development Appeal Board (SDAB)!

Wheatland County is actively searching for individuals residing in **Division 2, Division 6, and Division 7** to participate as members of the SDAB. If you reside outside these specific Divisions but are interested in contributing, we encourage you to submit your application for our consideration.

The SDAB deals with subdivision and development appeals by the provisions of the Municipal Government Act; and shall exercise any other powers, duties, and functions as assigned by Wheatland County bylaws or policies. Members of the SDAB serve a three-year term and meet as necessary during the day or evening.

Following your appointment to the Board, SDAB members must successfully complete online training provided by the Land & Property Rights Tribunal. Members will be financially compensated for their training as well as attendance for scheduled appeal hearings.

For more information regarding training, please go to: <https://www.alberta.ca/subdivision-and-development-appeal-boards-training.aspx>

If you require additional information, please contact the Wheatland County Subdivision and Development Appeal Board Clerk, Michelle Van Haarlem, at (403) 361-2000. Please forward letters of interest to sdab@wheatlandcounty.ca.

Application Deadline: February 1, 2024



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



Ladies Livestock Lessons
In partnership with The Stockmen's Bunkhouse Bonanza
January 19, 2024
Cochrane Ranchhouse, Cochrane AB

To Register, visit: www.RedBowAg.com

Topics include Livestock First Aid, Pasture Management, Livestock in Our Ecosystem and More!

WHEATLAND COUNTY

Open House Meeting **7:00pm**

Cheadle Community Hall
10 Malone Ave.
Cheadle, AB T1P 0X8

February 6, 2024 **FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

Snacks and beverages will be provided!
The Open House Meeting serves as a platform for individuals to engage in informal interactions with Council members, facilitating discussions, and gaining insights into various County initiatives.

RANCHING OPPORTUNITIES
FEBRUARY 8, 2024 - OLDS COLLEGE

To register visit: www.RedBowAg.com

Topics include Grazing Sustainability, Water Management, Producer Funding and Programs, Cattle Handling Demo and Much More!



Close battle

The Strathmore Ice Rockets U16C ringette teams earned a hard-fought 7-6 win over CNW on Dec. 10 at the Strathmore Family Centre. The Ice Rockets will now travel to Calgary on Dec. 17 to play their final game of 2023, before resuming in the new year.

Joe Lepage Photos



Practicing to fly

The Holy Cross Collegiate Hawks senior boys basketball team hosted their home tournament Dec. 8-9 at the school. The Hawks opened the tournament with a 76-46 win over the Rundle Rockies en route to a 1-3 record.

Joe Lepage Photo



Winning weekend

The Wheatland Braves picked up a pair of weekend wins, including a 6-0 win over the Medicine Hat Hounds on Dec. 10 at the Strathmore Family Centre. The local U13AA team, who improved to 13-4-1 on the season, will travel to Medicine Hat on Dec. 16, before returning home to host Lethbridge on Dec. 17 (1:15 p.m.) at the Strathmore Family Centre.

Joe Lepage Photo




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County passes master schedule of fees amendments

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Wheatland County council approved an amendment to the county master schedule of fees during the Dec. 5 regular meeting of council.

Council passed the first two readings of the amendment, granted unanimous consent to hold third reading, then finally passed third reading of the amendment.

County administration brought forward proposed fee changes in a report to council at the Nov. 21 regular meeting, titled "Securities for New Dwellings within Hamlets and Residential Communities." Council approved to include the fee changes through resolution CM-2023-11-36 at the time.

During the same meeting, council also approved an update to the Master Schedule of Fees through bylaw 2023-26.

Wheatland County council maintains authority to charge fees for various municipal goods and services in accordance with the Municipal Government Act.

A master schedule of fees is a list or a table which indicates fixed fees for goods and services. This represents documentation of the actual set of fees to be charged by the county for rendered services, ranging from water to development permits and everything in between.

Being approved, rate changes documented in the master schedule of fees will help cover current expenses that the county is paying, and the adjustments will be realized in the future budget, as well as reserve balances.

During the previous meeting of council, changes discussed surrounding the master schedule of fees were primarily focussed around the utility rate changes.

Joel Chiasson, manager of financial services with the county, explained that was to make sure council was focussed on getting those changes done in a timely manner and expediting communications of those to the appropriate parties.

The planning and development section of the master schedule of fees was the focus of council's attention for the Dec. 5 meeting.


Amendments under the planning and development section of the master schedule of fees document regard Barland condominium applications within that subdivision, and development permit applications for new dwellings in the Lakes of Muirfield.

Administration clarified to council during the Dec. 5 meeting, a separate development schedule may be prepared which would be more succinct for deposits to give to people who are applying for development permits such that the information would be presented to applicants in a way that would be easier for them to understand how it applies to their particular developments.

As of the passing of the document, it came into force effective immediately. Additionally, the previous iteration of the document had then been rescinded by council.


More information regarding the master schedule of fees is available publicly via the county website and publicized meeting agenda for Dec. 5.


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Durazo looks back on successful season

LAURENCE HEINEN
Times Contributor

Edgar Durazo capped off a successful rodeo season in style in early November.

The popular Mexican bull rider, who now lives with his family in the community surrounding Speargrass Golf Course, was a man on a mission during the Canadian Finals Rodeo at Red Deer's Westerner Park from Nov. 1-5.

Heading into the season-ending championship show, the 32-year-old thrill seeker was sitting fifth in the Canadian Professional Rodeo Association bull riding standings behind Coy Robbins, Jacob Gardiner, Jordan Hansen and Jared Parsonage.

"That's the stage that I want to be on," said Durazo in regards to qualifying for the CFR. "Every time that I get there, it's such a blessing."

The two-time and defending Strathmore Stampede champion also won the CFR bull riding title in 2019, but finished second in the aggregate standings at the year-end show behind Hansen.

"Back then, if I didn't ride six bulls, I wouldn't have won," said Durazo, who waged a fierce battle with Hansen as both men rode all six of the bulls they got on. "You have to be six out of six and this time five out of six to win. You have to be up there to win the championship."

Although he lost the aggregate title to Hansen four years ago, Durazo finished with almost \$7,300 more in earnings than his competitor to take home his first Canadian title.

This year, Durazo went jump-for-jump with five of the six bovine athletes he matched up against to win the aggregate title, while also climbing to the top of the standings with a total of \$82,467.36 in earnings.

That put him \$11,660.25 ahead of Parsonage in the year-end standings to give him his second Canadian crown.

"It's a pretty good season," said the humble cowboy, who estimates he made closer to \$120,000 with ground-money earnings, which don't count in the CPRA standings. "When you pass the \$100,000 mark, that's a great year. You spend \$20,000 in entrance fees and travel and stuff like that and you've got \$100,000 profit, so that's a good year and that's just in Canada."

Durazo also had additional earnings from competing at shows in California in April (including winning the Springville Rodeo) as well as at the Cloverdale Rodeo in B.C. in May.

While he doesn't plan on heading south of the border in 2024, Durazo is looking forward to competing once again at the Cloverdale Rodeo and at the Calgary Stampede before he'll get set to defend his Strathmore Stampede title in early August.

"I love that rodeo," he said, noting that it's just a quick 15-minute drive from his house to the Strathmore Rodeo Grounds. "We're going to have a good rodeo season up here. We're going hard and going to everything."

Durazo's spectacular season was even more impressive when you consider that he didn't start competing until April due to a serious injury he sustained in late 2022.

Edgar Durazo of Speargrass used an 87.50 ride in the fourth round en route to winning the bull riding event at the 2023 Canadian Finals Rodeo Nov. 1-5 in Red Deer.

Photo Courtesy of Canadian Professional Rodeo Association

"I broke my foot in October, so I couldn't go to the CFR," he explained. "That bumped me down, so that's why I didn't qualify for Calgary last year."

One year earlier in September of 2021, Durazo sustained five broken ribs and a bruised lung after being thrown off and stepped on by a bull at the Cody Snyder Bullbustin' event at Grey Eagle Resort and Casino.

Despite that fact, he returned to compete at the 2021 CFR two months later where he successfully rode two of six bulls, while setting an arena record of 92.25 points atop Vold Rodeo's Up Shift.

Although he finished third in the 2021 standings behind Parsonage and Lonnie West, Durazo gained confidence that he could battle back from a serious injury which helped him once again this season.

"When you ride bulls, you know that you can get injured pretty easily," Durazo said. "It's something that's part of it, so you have to learn how to deal with it and find the best help to get out of it quicker and safer."

"The Pro Rodeo Sport Medicine Team plays such a huge role in what we do. We see them at every rodeo so they know what's going on and what we do, so it helps a lot."

After breaking his foot, Durazo took advice given to him by Canadian Pro Rodeo Sport Medicine executive director Brandon Thome, who suggested that he hire a personal trainer. Thome, who also works at Acumen Health as an athletic therapist, arranged a meeting with Chris Sharkey, who Durazo started to work with on his road to recovery.

"He's based in Edmonton, but he comes here," Durazo said. "Now I've got my routine through an app on my phone, so I do everything at home. Once in a while, I go in and train with them (at Acumen Health's Calgary location). I signed with them and they're my sponsors. They're great."

Durazo also commended his wife Karla, who's pregnant and expecting the couple's third child in April, for all her help behind the scenes.

"She's a super woman," he said of his wife, who helps look after the couple's two-year-old son Edgar and one-year-old daughter Sophia, all while being her husband's nutritionist as well. "Health-wise, all my meals that she prepares, everything has to be balanced. She's the best. Behind the scenes, she's my biggest support."

Edgar Durazo's 2023 CFR results

Round 1 – 1st, 89 points on Duane Kesler Rodeo's Alberta Prime Devils Advocate

Round 2 – 3rd, 85.75 points on Vold Rodeo's Who's Sippin

Round 3 – 4th, 87 points on Calgary Stampede Rodeo Company's Dance Monkey

Round 4 – 2nd, with 87.5 points on Big Stone Rodeo's Far To Filthy

Round 5 – bucked off Duffy Rodeo's Bonito

Round 6 – 1st, 88 points on Vold Rodeo's Rust Bucket

Aggregate rank – 1st

Season earnings – \$36,146.69

CFR round earnings – \$32,316.75

CFR aggregate earnings – \$14,003.92

Total earnings – \$82,467.36

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9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

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2023 Tree of Hope

For the 28th consecutive year, you have the opportunity to remember loved ones and support the Strathmore Hospital and Home Care With A Donation to the Hospital Foundation.

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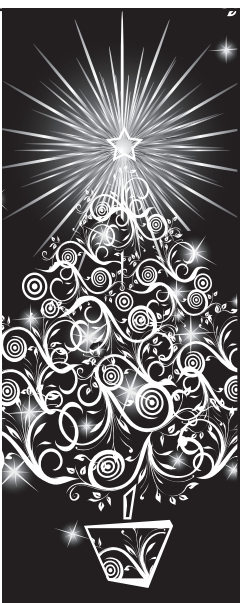
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GENERAC

Strathmore Library hosts silent auction

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

As a follow up to their annual Christmas market, the Strathmore Municipal Library decided to bring back their annual silent auction in support of library services.

Laura Henderson, assistant director of library services, explained the auction has not been hosted at the library since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, and staff were excited to bring it back.

"We held our market on (Nov. 25) and part of the vendor fee was a donation from their table to be put into our silent auction at the library fundraiser," she said. "We have 19 items in the auction from each of the vendors. They are small items; we did not have any specifications for the vendors to follow in terms of what they donated, just what they felt comfortable with."

According to Henderson, a total of 18 vendors participated at the Library's Christmas market, out of a maximum 20 which could be fit into the program room.

These ranged from local businesses and artisans, to young entrepreneurs having a go at being part of the market.

"We had all levels of vendors at our market, and

the youngest, I am guessing she was about 12, and she donated a small ornament that she made. We also go all the way up to a \$100 tattoo certificate," said Henderson. "It is small items, so it is definitely more of a community building activity. It is also a great way for vendors to get their name out and to give a little bit back to the library."

The Strathmore Municipal Library is aiming to once again make their silent auction an annual event to follow the Christmas market, as well as to potentially start up an annual spring market.

Henderson added the library recorded over 175 people having come through the doors on the day of the market to check out the event.

"We have missed having the market all along, so as soon as we felt that it was a good year to bring it back, we just decided to jump in and do it and it has been a huge success," she said. "The vendors were all so happy to donate to us as well; they were so happy to be here in the library. The whole thing has gone very, very well for something that we just brought back after a few years."

The silent auction to support library programming ran from the conclusion of the Christmas market until Dec. 9. As the event continues in upcoming years, the goal is reportedly to grow it and continue to have it support library programs.

Library hosts Polar Express event for final Flex Friday of year

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

For their final Flex Friday event of the year, the Strathmore Municipal Library decided to host a Polar Express-themed day of activities, which wrapped up with a showing of the movie.

The event took place Dec. 8, in the program room of the library, which was free to drop in to with no prior registration required.

Laura Henderson, assistant director of library services, said the team at the library wanted to send off the 2023 year with a bit of a bang.

"We always run a holiday program and we typically try, because it is our last Flex Friday program of the year, we typically try to make it a little bit more than our other Flex Friday programs," she said. "We always try to put on quality programs, but we typically try to do a little bit extra for this last one. This is the first time we have done a theme like this and it is typically formatted differently every year."

The library had originally called their event a "holiday extravaganza," according to Henderson, though eventually settled on the Polar Express theme.

Though Henderson did not have an estimate as to how many people would be dropping in, she said the library was prepared to see roughly 100 kids show up for the experience.

"We served hot chocolate with marshmallows, we had crafts like painting ornaments and making Christmas cards, we also had a letter to Santa station and we will take the letters and send them to Santa," she said. "Santa was also there for pictures and we asked for donations of a non-perishable item to get a picture with Santa."

Donations of non-perishable items were sent to the veterans' food bank following the event.

The library also made a quieter book nook available by their fireplace to have a space for kids to read or to have a story time during the event.

Henderson added prior to hosting, she had been surprised by how quickly word of the Polar Express Experience had spread locally.

"I rarely know what it is going to look like, but I had talked to a lot of people about this and somehow this particular event has made its way around and people had heard about it," she said. "We put a little bit more into these activities, a little bit more time and a little bit more financially. We always have fairly good attendance on Flex Fridays and it has become almost an expectation within the community that something will be going on at some point."

Crafts and activities were held in the morning, and the library showed the Polar Express movie in the afternoon of the event.

TIMES CLASSIFIEDS

Obituary



MCCORRISTER, Darlene (Baird)

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of our loving mother Darlene McCorrister (Baird) on November 23rd surrounded by the love of family at the age of 82. She had been a proud resident of Strathmore and area for 47 years and was well-known in the community as Darlene, the owner and manager of Darlene's Fabrics & Crafts.

Indeed, she had been a very active member of the community after realizing her dream of opening a fabrics and crafts shop. For many years, her love of crafts made her shop a hub of activity for local ladies who shared her passion. In addition to the fabrics and crafts shop, some may remember her for opening and running the SEARS catalogue sales office in Strathmore.

"Grandma" as she has been lovingly known since the birth of her first granddaughter, was pre-deceased by her father Charles Baird, mother Margaret Baird, and brother Ron Baird. She was also heart-breakingly pre-deceased by her beloved son, Calvin (Amy) McCorrister, 39.

She is survived and lovingly remembered by her daughter Cheryl McCorrister (Strathmore), son Jason (Maria) McCorrister (Montreal), granddaughter Carly (Rob) Kittridge (Hanna), granddaughter Cayla (Dave) Waugh (Golden), grandson Nicholas McCorrister (Montreal), grandson Connor McCorrister (Calgary), granddaughter Lacey McCorrister (Calgary), great granddaughter Penny-lane Kittridge (Hanna), sister Bonnie Cooke (Calgary), and extended family and friends.

Grandma was born in Winnipeg, Manitoba on April 30th 1941. After marriage, she moved to Calgary, Alberta where she lived from 1972 until 1977, raising her three children. In 1977, at the age of 36, she moved the family to an acreage in Cheadle, just outside of Strathmore. It was here on "the farm" that grandma created a wonderful and loving home for her family as well as a menagerie of dogs (including two, large St Bernards), cats, horses, cows, rabbits, and goats. Grandma always provided for the family, making sure we had whatever we needed and put food on the table for two very hungry boys. She worked tirelessly to run her shop and the family home.

For many years, "the farm" was home base for family and friends. We came and went as the years went by, but there was always a seat at the table for Sunday dinners which became a family tradition. Grandma always made everyone feel welcome, cooking up a big roast or ham on Sundays and "throwing another potato in the pot" for any unexpected visitors. For us, the farm was home and a refuge if times got tough.

Holidays and special occasions were always a happy time to visit the farm. Grandma went all out decorating and baking to make the holidays enjoyable for everyone. For sure, her pies and famous shortbread cookies with maraschino cherries will be sorely missed in the years to come.

In 2003, Grandma moved to Strathmore where she would spend her remaining 20 years. In retirement, she discovered a love of reading, often finishing books in a couple of days. She enjoyed the simple things like reading her books on the patio with the warm summer sun on her face. She loved to watch the birds eating from the feeder on the birch tree in the yard. She'd wrestle with crosswords and play solitaire. Of course, her greatest joy was visiting with her grandchildren who she loved dearly. Her final years were spent in the care of her loving daughter, Cheryl, at their quiet and cozy home in town with family often making trips to visit.

Grandma was a kind and gentle soul who created the loving home that she dreamed of. She was a joy to spend time with because of her easy-going and cheerful disposition. She was loving and supportive and never judgmental, wanting her children and grandchildren to have interesting and happy lives. She was smiling until the end, simply happy to be surrounded by family.

As requested by Grandma, there will be no funeral service. Instead, as per her wishes, family will gather in the summer of 2024 at Waterton Lakes National Park to celebrate her life.

Messages of condolence may be forwarded to the family at www.wheatlandfuneralhome.ca

Wheatland Funeral Home
Strathmore, AB 403-934-4404

NEXT HOME GAMES

Saturday, January 13 • 8 pm vs Okotoks
Saturday, January 20 • 4:30 pm vs Medicine Hat

Strathmore Family Centre
- Gold Arena

Strathmore Times **PLAYER OF THE GAME**
Dec 9 **Philip Raycroft** Dec 10 **Kyle Provencher**

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THANK YOU

To all our coaches, facilitators, board members, learners and volunteers at the Strathmore Municipal Library and Strathmore & Area Adult Inclusive Learning:

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

thank you for contributing to our vibrant learning community!

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SAIL Strathmore & Area Adult Inclusive Learning

STRATHMORE MUNICIPAL LIBRARY LIFE LONG LEARNING

TIMES CLASSIFIEDS

COMING EVENT

Retirement Celebration for Rev. Pamela Scott



Celebration Potluck after service
Sunday, December 17

Strathmore United Church

Please bring an item to share.

Rev. Scott's last service will be Sunday, Dec. 31.

A potluck dessert party and farewell is planned along with coffee and fellowship afterwards.

MISC

HIP/KNEE REPLACEMENT. Other medical conditions causing TROUBLE WALKING or DRESSING? The Disability Tax Credit allows for \$3,000 yearly tax credit and \$30,000 lump sum refund. Take advantage of this offer. Apply NOW; quickest refund Nationwide: Expert help. 1-844-453-5372.

CRIMINAL RECORD? Why suffer employment/licensing loss? Travel/business opportunities? Be embarrassed? Think: Criminal Pardon. US entry waiver. Record purge. File destruction. Free consultation. 1-800-347-2540. www.accesslegalmjf.com.

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GET YOUR CLASSIFIED ADS IN!

NOTICE

Hussar Seed Cleaning Co-op Ltd.

AGM

Thursday, December 14

1 p.m.

Hussar Curling Rink

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www.StrathmoreTimes.com

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AUCTIONS

MEIER FIREARM AND SPORTSMAN AUCTION, Saturday December 16, 10AM Rifles, Shotguns, Ammo., Hunting Supplies. 4740 57 ST Wetaskiwin. Consignments accepted up to sale time, Free Pickup. Visit www.meierauction.com PH 780 440-1860.

GET YOUR CLASSIFIED ADS IN THE TIMES!

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RosebudTheatre.com/Careers



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SUDOKU

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

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Upcoming Council Meetings

December 13, 2023 | 6 P.M. Committee of the Whole

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.

Have you enrolled in the Tax Installment Payment Plan (TIPP)?



2024 enrollment applications are due December 18, 2023.

With TIPP, you pay the same amount as your annual property tax bill. But instead of paying one large lump sum payment in June, smaller monthly payments automatically come out of your bank the first day of every month. Smaller monthly payments help you save time and money by making your budgeting easier and removing the risk of late payment penalties.

If you aren't enrolled in TIPP but would like to be for the 2024 property tax year, please email tax@strathmore.ca or stop by the Strathmore Municipal Building to complete your application by December 18, 2023.

How does TIPP work?

Each year, property taxes are billed in May but cover the period from January 1st to December 31st. With TIPP, you don't need to worry about payment deadlines or late payment penalties. Your taxes are spread over 12-months, starting in January with the account being paid in full after your December installment. TIPP automatically continues from year to year, or until you chose to discontinue the payment schedule.

Your monthly payment amount is calculated by dividing your most recent annual tax levy by twelve (12). This account is paid through automated withdrawals from your back account each month.

When you receive your annual combined Tax and Assessment notice in May your monthly payment will be adjusted to reflect the actual tax levy and the credit-to-date will be subtracted from the tax levy. This balance will then be divided by months remaining on the current year, ensuring your account is paid in full by year end.

In accordance with Bylaw 23-30, all taxes remaining unpaid after December 31 of the year in which they're imposed will receive a 2% penalty applied to their outstanding tax balance.

For more information call 403-361-2114.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays.



Facility Holiday Hours

Date	Municipal Building	Aquatic Centre	Family Centre	Sports Centre
Dec 24, 2023	Closed	Closed	Noon to 4 p.m.	10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Dec 25, 2023	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Dec 26, 2023	Closed	11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.	11 a.m. to 4 p.m.	Closed
Dec 27, 2023	Closed	6:00 a.m. to 8 p.m.	11 a.m. to 4 p.m.	10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Dec 28, 2023	Closed	6 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.	11 a.m. to 4 p.m.	10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Dec 29, 2023	Closed	6 a.m. to 9 p.m.	11 a.m. to 4 p.m.	10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Dec 30, 2023	Closed	Noon to 5 p.m.	11 a.m. to 4 p.m.	10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Dec 31, 2023	Closed	Noon to 5 p.m.	8 a.m. to 4 p.m.	10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Jan 1, 2023	Closed	11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.	Closed	Closed



Information session Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework and Intermunicipal Development Plan

Join the conversation

What is an ICF?

It's a tool to facilitate and encourage cooperation and cost-sharing between neighbouring municipalities to ensure municipal services are provided to residents efficiently.

What is an IDP?

It's an agreement between two or more municipalities, which outline how planning and development decisions will be made when they affect both sides of the boundary lines.

We're working collaboratively with Wheatland County to develop a new Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework (ICF) and Intermunicipal Development Plan (IDP).

Both an ICF and IDP are required through the Municipal Government Act (MGA) between municipalities that share a common boundary. Currently, the Town and County do not have an ICF or IDP in place, therefore, to meet MGA requirements these projects have been initiated.

How can you get involved?

For Phase 1, the Town and County will be hosting an information session on December 13, 2023 to introduce the ICF and IDP project and answer any questions the public and interested parties may have.

WHEN:
December 13, 2023
5:00 to 8:00 p.m.

WHERE:
Strathmore Civic Centre
120 Brent Blvd.

QUESTIONS?

Vicki Dodge, Project Manager, Town of Strathmore, vicki.dodge@strathmore.ca, 403-814-0702

Stefan Kunz, Project Manager, Wheatland County, stefan.kunz@wheatlandcounty.ca, 403-361-2162



Waste collection update for January 1, 2024.



Seasonal Collection Schedule

November 01, 2023 to April 30, 2024

January 1, 2024 new collection days

● black cart/waste
● green cart/organic

December 2023							January 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
26	27	28	29	30	1	2	holiday	1	2	3	4	5	6
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
24/31	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30	31	1	2	3

February 2024							March 2024							April 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
28	29	30	31	1	2	3	25	26	27	28	29	1	2	31	1	2	3	4	5	6
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
25	26	27	28	29	1	2	24/31	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30	1	2	3	4

Keep organics light and fluffy!

Avoid packing down contents in your cart. Materials may become stuck in the cart, and the truck may not be able to fully empty it. Lining and layering your cart every 30 cm (12") with newspaper, food boxes or paper towels will also reduce materials from becoming stuck. If items are stuck, it is up to you to loosen them and put them out for the next collection date.

May 1, 2024 - return to weekly garbage and compost collection.

Questions?
infrastructure@strathmore.ca
or 403-361-2108
or strathmore.ca/waste-collection

Waste Collection Days – effective January 1, 2024			
Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Hillview	Aspen	Cambridge	Downtown
Lakewood	Briarwood	Glenwood	Strathmore
Strathaven	Brentwood	Grande Point Est.	Westmount
Strathcona	Crystal Ridge	Green Meadows	Wildflower
Range Rd 254	Edgefield	Maplewood	
	The Ranch	Parkwood	
	Thorncliffe	Range Rd 250	
		George Freeman	
No Collection on Monday			