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Holiday train

Page 5



Skate club shines

STRATHMORE TIMES

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Local MP reflects on 2023

JOHN WATSON

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

As 2023 begins to wrap up, Bow River Riding MP Martin Shields reflects back on the past year, continuing his service in office for his constituents.

"From a constituency viewpoint, I think the oil and gas sector was a little more positive this past year, with the increase in value of the commodity, which had been down to almost nil," he said. "The resource sector is suffering in some ways what other industries are and that is the shortage of labour. Whether you're in agriculture or the resource sector, private sector, I have often heard it's there's just a shortage of people to do the work, to do the jobs. So, that's something that, that crossed a lot of the people in the sense of whatever industry you're in."

Shields added the drought experienced in Alberta, particularly during the summer months, was massively impactful for a number of his constituents, many of whom are deeply involved in the agriculture industry.

This discussion, he explained, carries into the House of Commons via continued advocacy for carbon tax rebates and more supports for farmers needing to make use of irrigation for their crops.

"The amount of energy it takes to run an irrigation system, and then the carbon tax that comes with that, is a significant challenge," he said.

Additional challenges faced in relation to local agriculture include the shipping and transportation of livestock.

This issue in this area, is largely in regards to the amount of time drivers are able to spend on the road, versus being able to get livestock where they need to go safely and appropriately.

"(Transporters) may not be at the place they need to be when their logs run out and they have got livestock, so they either shut down at an inappropriate place with livestock, or they break the law and can be fined," he said.

Continued on Page 4



Marvelous Matilda performance

Strathmore High School drama students held multiple performances of Matilda, including the show on Dec. 18, at the school. The audience enjoyed the show from start to finish. See Page 5 for more coverage. **Melissa Piche Photo**



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Live in Lakewood

www.lakewoodofstrathmore.ca

Ag Society reflects on year

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

According to Ryan Schmidt, president and CEO of the Strathmore & District Agricultural Society, the team and their volunteers have had an exciting year to be proud of, as they wrap up 2023.

Schmidt reflected on the successes of the year, as well as the lessons learned along the way which he intends to learn from and make next year's itinerary even more grandiose.

"I feel like we had a wonderful year that our events really hit their stride this year. We had great concerts, amazing rodeo chuckwagons and Running With the Bulls ... our Fright Night was wonderful, the Celebration of Lights is rolling right now, the volunteers of the Ag Society have really put together a smashing year for us in 2023," he said.

Schmidt explained in his opinion, the four events which really stood out to him as having been of particular note and success included the Cowboy Town Concert, Celebration of Lights, Fright Night, and 50th anniversary gala to celebrate the organization and its history.

"Our Brett Kissel cowboy town concert was just such an amazing night ... the energy was just palpable, people had a wonderful time and it really set things up for a great concert next year," he said. "I thought Fright Night was our best performance ever in the mazes. The volunteers who came out as scarers, and the volunteers who put together a tremendous maze this year, it was just an awesome experience for everybody."

said there are improvements that need to be addressed regarding the smooth operation of the rodeo school in the summer, mindfulness of potential weather problems during outdoor events, as well as rodent control throughout the grounds.

"Our rodeo school sold out as usual ... one thing we found, especially with saddle bronc and bareback, we had a roster of all brand new green kids sign up and it made it really challenging for the coaches to manage because a lot of the kids did not have their own equipment.

"Those couple of days were a real slog-fest. We definitely invite and want new people to the sport, to the rodeo school — it probably just would have been smarter to have some mix of kids who had done it a few times and had some equipment so there was not so much sharing.

To resolve this problem, Schmidt intends for the Ag Society to have its own supply of equipment for athletes new to their sports to learn on before buying any equipment, and to have a more balanced distribution of green to seasoned athletes throughout the school.

The large project and significant focus for the Ag Society throughout 2024, will be raising capital required for the development of the planned indoor Western Events and Cultural Centre.

"In order to build this wonderful facility just outside of town, we need to raise a lot of capital and that campaign is launching in February. We are going to be working hard all year on that," he said. "If we can succeed on that, it will Among the lessons learned, Schmidt be transformational for the Ag Society."

Keep kids safe from button batteries

ALBERTA HEALTH SERVICES

With the holiday season now here, Alberta Health Services (AHS) reminds Albertans about the dangers of button batteries, often found in toys and electronics, and the risk they pose to children if swallowed.

Button batteries are used to power many items such as games, watches, hearing aids, cameras, calculators, flashing shoes and musical cards. Because of their round shape and small size, children can mistake button batteries for food or candy.

In the first 10 months of this year, more than 40 injuries in children related to button and similar small batteries were reported by emergency departments across the province.

A swallowed button battery can cause chemical burns and destroy the tissue in the upper digestive tract and may even cause death. The damage can be rapid and is likely to be worse if the battery gets stuck in the esophagus instead of moving into the stomach. After swallowing a button battery your child might have one or more of these symptoms: wheezing, drooling, coughing, gagging when eating, trouble swallowing, chest pain, belly pain, nausea, vomiting, loss of appetite and fever. Injury can still occur without these symptoms.

If you think someone has swallowed a

button battery, do not induce vomiting. Take the individual to the nearest emergency department immediately.

To keep children safe this holiday season and beyond:

- · Where possible, choose products that do not use button batteries.
- Keep all batteries locked up, out of reach and out of sight of children.
- · Supervise children when they use products containing button batteries.
- Ensure children do not play with batteries or are able to remove them. Only buy and use products where the battery is secured, so your child cannot open it; for example, battery covers that are secured by screws.
- Look for loose batteries on floors, tables and counters.
 - Store or dispose of batteries safely.
- Cover the ends of batteries with tape even if the batteries are dead. Dead batteries can still cause harm if swallowed.

Alberta Health Services is the provincial health authority responsible for 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.











Train time

The Canadian Pacific Holiday Train blazed through Gleichen on Dec.19 marking the final stop of the US train line. The event featured the vocal talent of MacKenzie Porter and Dallas Smith. The singers delighted the audience with personal hits and seasonal favourites. The Holiday Train was also an opportunity to raise awareness for food insecurities in both Wheatland County and Siksika Nation with cheque presentations of over **Melissa Piche Photos**











Christmas tunes

The Holy Cross Collegiate band hosted a concert on Dec. 20 at the school. The crew played plenty of songs to get into the **Joe Lepage Photos**

Chantelle de Jonge looks back on introduction to legislature

JOHN WATSON

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Chestermere Strathmore MLA Chantelle de Jonge reflected back on 2023, after having been elected into her seat at the Legislature in the spring.

De Jonge took over from former United Conservative Party (UCP) MLA Leela Aheer, who chose to not run again in the last election.

"It has been a busy first six months for me on the job, there has been a lot to learn ... but I also look back at all the great things that we have done as a government this year and the exciting things we have got planned for next year," said de Jonge. "Back in March we balanced our budget for the second consecutive year and I had the honour to host the Southern Alberta Budget Town Hall with Minister (Nate) Horner ... and hear directly from Albertans during that town hall."

Since her election into the Legislative Assembly, De Jonge been named parliamentary secretary for affordability and utilities.

De Jonge echoed the UCP messaging and ideologies regarding disagreements and conflicts in court between the province and the Liberal-led Government of Canada.

'We have seen, over the past number of years, the federal government increasingly try to input and act in areas that are not their jurisdictions,"

she said. "This year, we saw two huge decisions come out. We had the federal court determine that the federal government's definition as plastics as unconstitutional, as unreasonable; we had the Supreme Court tell us that Bill C69 was unconstitutional. This is a huge win for Alberta."

She also emphasized the fight against the federal government regarding clean energy regulations and electricity markets.

Personally, and in regards to the Chestermere Strathmore constituency, de Jonge said she is advocating for the construction of more schools, and the development of safer roads for commuters utilizing local roads and highways.

Speaking to goals of her own while in occupation of her seat, she spoke simply about support for her party's actions and stance regarding reforming the provincial health care system and defense against federal clean energy efforts and regulations.

"We cannot allow these outrageous clean electricity regulations to be implemented in this province. It doesn't make sense. It does not account for the uniqueness of our electricity grid," she said. "We're not going to let Albertans freeze in the dark, full stop. So, to continue to stand up on that front against the NDP-Liberal Alliance."

STRATHMORE

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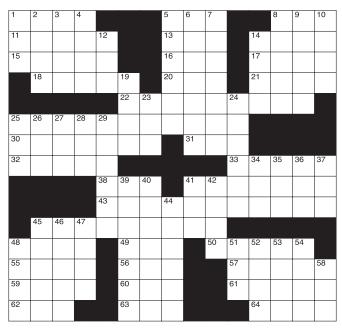
Jody Schneider Production

125 2nd Avenue, Strathmore, Alberta T1P 1K1 • 403.934.5589

Strathmore Times is published every Wednesday by Strathmore Times Inc. and is distributed by Canada Post to Strathmore, Carseland, Cheadle, Cluny, Gleichen, Hussar, Lyalta, Namaka, Nightingale, Rockyford, Rosebud, Speargrass and Standard. We also have various pickup locations throughout our coverage area. Our 10,910 issues are printed by Star Press Inc., Wainwright, Alberta. The content in the Strathmore Times is copyright and reproduction without the proper written consent of the Strathmore Times is strictly prohibited.

The Times welcomes letters to the editor for publication. All submissions must be signed and a phone number included for verification purposes. We reserve the right to edit letters for length, legal considerations and taste. Please try and keep your letters under 400 words to ensure that it will appear as close to its original form as possible. We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada through the Local Journalism Initiative. Canada





CLUES ACROSS

- 1. A way to injure
- 5. Mutual savings bank
- 8. Rock TV channel 11. Large number of fish
- swimming together 13. Military mailbox
- 14. Female of a horse
- 15. Category
- 16. City
- 17. Breezed through
- 18. Officer who bears a mace
- 20. Tax collector
- 21. "Cheers" actress Perlman
- 22. Pauses before acting
- 25. Extracted information from a wave
- 30. Tendency to revert to something ancestral
- 32. Nocturnal rodents
- 31. No seats available

- 33. Moves gently to and fro 38. Not good
- 41. A way to ready
- 43. One who makes something better
- 45. Things associated with American history
- 48. Ancient Phoenician fertility god
- 49. A continuous portion of a circle 50. Volcanic craters
- 55. Units of electrical resistance
- 56. Gamble on
- 57. Ethiopian town
- 59. One point east of northeast 60. Polynesian garland of flowers
- 61. Spiritual leader of a Jewish
- congregation 62. State of fuss
- 63. Keyboard key
- 64. Partner to relaxation

CLUES DOWN

- 1. "The world's most famous arena'
- 2. Polite interruption sound
- 3. Private school in New York
- 4. Refuse of grapes
- Tomei, actress
- 6. Adult beverages
- 7. Supporter
- 8. Papier-__, art material
- 9. Forests have them
- 10. Most ancient Hindu scriptures 44. About milk
- 12. Downwind
- 14. Marketplace
- 19. Flowering plant genus
- 23. Street where nightmares happen
- 24. Admirer
- 25. Dip lightly into water
- 26. When you hope to get there
- 27. Partner to cheese
- 28. Eggs

- 29. A way to disqualify
- 34. South American plant 35. Fold-away bed
- 36. Debbie Harry album "Koo" 37. Swedish krona
- 39. Displaying warmth and friendliness
- 40. Official orders
- 41. Bowling alley necessity
- 42. Stray
- 45. Expressed pleasure
- 46. Caribbean dance 47. If not
- 48. __ fide (Latin)
- 51. Swiss river 52. Hebrew calendar month
- 53. One easily swindled
- 54. Point that is one point south of southwest
- 58. Small island (British)







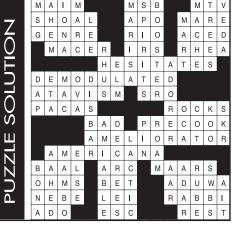
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Christmas celebration

Trinity Christian Academy hosted their annual Christmas concert on Dec. 20 in front of family and friends in the school's gymnasium.

Photos Courtesy of TCA

Many challenges to tackle in new year

Continued from Page 1

Shields and his team have been advocating to adopt a more American style approach which implements a leniency zone in order for drivers to reach appropriate stopping locations at the end of their daily logs without incurring fines upon themselves.

Additionally, Shields continues to be a champion for localized journalism and community news, hoping to see more attention and funding delegated to supporting such organizations.

"We really have a value of communication in rural Canada that is under serious threat. Just further supporting big legacy media is not going to resolve that issue. There needs to be a different way of looking at how important media is in rural communities," he said.

Also included among Shields' priorities continuing into 2024 are adequate housing for Canadians, and safety for young athletes participating in organized sport.





What a show

The Drama 20/30 students from Strathmore High School delighted a full house with their rendition of Matilda on Dec. 18. With gusto, Anthony Laycock portrayed Mrs.

Trunchbull, where he delivered a flawless per-

Melissa Piche Photo













Stars shine

The Strathmore Skating Club held their annual STARSkate Holiday Performance Dec. 20 at the Strathmore Family Centre. Skaters performed individual and group numbers highlighting their skills they've been working on this

Melissa Piche Photos

Lakewood of Strathmore excited for prospective new year

IOHN WATSON

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Scott Silva, director of sales and marketing with Lakewood of Strathmore, reflected on the series of accomplishments which took place throughout the community over the course of 2023.

"We have achieved some major milestones in the project's development in the expansion and growth of the community, number one being the establishment of our show home row. We are very proud to announce that we have two show homes open and another three that are coming," he said. "We have opened up Brave Park, of course, on Oct. 21, and so the park is actively being used by not only residents, but community members from all over Strathmore. We've got a lot of people that are coming in and even members from Wheatland County."

Additionally, several announcements were made throughout 2023 regarding events partnering with GlobalFest and the Strathmore Stampede, which will be continuing into 2024. One such example includes the fireworks tour, which consists of five shows per year.

The community of Lakewood itself will also be host to more public events in the upcoming year, as development and expansion of the area continues.

ve Park is one part of the community which he is particularly and duplexes in the works.

proud of seeing to completion.

"Brave Park is something that's been close and near and dear to my heart and about two years in the making. And now with the launch of it, we have been able to launch our international exchange and twinning program partnered with the Strathmore Legion and then the American legion and other historical locations around the world," he said. "We went to Pearl Harbor this year with them and our plaque is going to be placed up there on the memorial wall, which is amazing."

Regarding potential improvements to reflect on and consider as the new year approaches, Silva said 2023 in particular saw challenges related to the supply chain and having materials where they needed to be, when they needed to be

Throughout 2024, some of the goals for Lakewood of Strathmore is to have the show home row completed and open to the public, as well as to host four events throughout Lakewood itself.

"We are going to be going back to being an event-focused community ... that does not mean we are going to stop doing events elsewhere, but we are going to be doing a lot more community events," said Silva.

Construction and development of Phase 2A for Lakewood is expected to launch early in the new year, which will see Silva added the development and opening of the new Bra-higher-density housing on the horizon, such as townhomes



Happy 2024! This is the time of year when resolutions are made; when people take stock of their lives and their habits to see if there are areas for improvement. Everyone has heard of the common resolutions people make....lose weight, exercise more, eat a more healthy diet,

But here are a few resolutions that usually aren't usually on the list but which, if made. just might result in a better life. Here are a few......

- 1. Simplify and declutter. It's a marvellous feeling to get rid of stuff we don't need anymore and have the remainder of our "stuff" in its place.
- 2. Stop procrastinating. A big job can often create paralysis. Breaking it into smaller chunks will help you reach your goal.
- 3. Be more polite. Good manners will make it easier to connect with people. Use words like please, sorry, excuse me, pardon me and thank you more often.
- 4. Watch less TV and screens in general. Some studies in the U.S. say that the average American watches 8 hours of TV per day. For Canadians it's much less but you will find you have more time for things like sleep or just being outside. Allied to this resolution is to spend less time on social media.
- 5. Get rid of grudges. Learn forgiveness. You'd be amazed at the uplifting feeling forgiveness bestows on you.
- 6. Learn a new language or new skill. Learn how to cook well or take up woodworking. Or learn more about music or art. A new skill can add much satisfaction to your life.
- 7. Finally, in this very partisan society, it is a good idea to find ways to get along with those with whom you disagree.

You may want to add some or all of these seven resolutions to your more medical ones. Good

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Upcoming Meetings

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For public hearings it is strongly encouraged that you attend in person.

January 9: Council Meeting January 10: Agricultural Service Board **January 16: Municipal Planning Commission**

To join the call, dial 403-917-1764 and enter the PIN 47001 when prompted. Agenda packages can be found on our website.

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/cerb

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

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

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.











Christmas Closure Dates

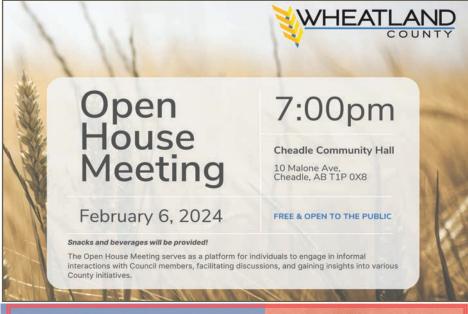
The Wheatland County Administration Office, Agricultural Service Board Shop, and Public Works Shop will be CLOSED

December 25, 2023 - January 1, 2024

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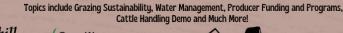
All Waste Transfer Sites will be CLOSED on December 25, December 26, and January 1





















Stay off thin ice

ALBERTA BLUE CROSS

As a supporter of Alberta's preventable injury awareness campaign, Alberta Blue Cross is reminding Albertans to stay off thin ice - given the unseasonably warm winter we have had so far.

"Through the holiday season, frozen bodies of water offer great opportunities for outdoor winter recreation such as ice fishing, snowshoeing, snowmobiling, skating and cross-country skiing," says Brian Geislinger, Senior Vice-President of Corporate Relations and Community Engagement with Alberta Blue Cross. "But no ice surface is without risks."

Even though we're well into late December, for many locations across the province, ice is not thick enough yet to bear the weight of quads, snowmobiles or side-by-sides - and in some cases may not even be thick enough to bear the weight of an individual on

The recommended minimum depth for activities on new, clear, hard ice is as follows: 7 cm (3 inches) or less - STAY OFF. 10 cm (4 inches) - ice fishing, walking, cross country skiing, 12 cm (5 inches) – one snowmobile or ATV, 20 to 30 cm (8-12 inches) - one car or small pickup, 30 to 38 cm (12-15 inches) – one medium truck (pickup or van).

"Ice thickness can be affected by many factors including currents, fluctuations in water levels, changing air temperature and even shock waves from vehicles travelling across the ice," Geislinger cautions.

Albertans should also stay off stormwater drainage ponds, which are an attractive amenity in many newer neighbourhoods but which may have water flowing underneath that can dangerously reduce ice thickness levels.

And parents need to be especially vigilant to ensure their children don't venture out onto thin ice, including dugouts on farms.

"We also want to ensure that newcomers to Alberta who may be navigating their first winter in Canada are also aware of the risks of thin ice," savs Geislinger.

For more information on winter ice safety, visit the Canadian Lifesaving Society website.



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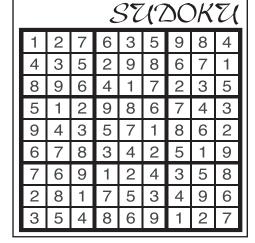
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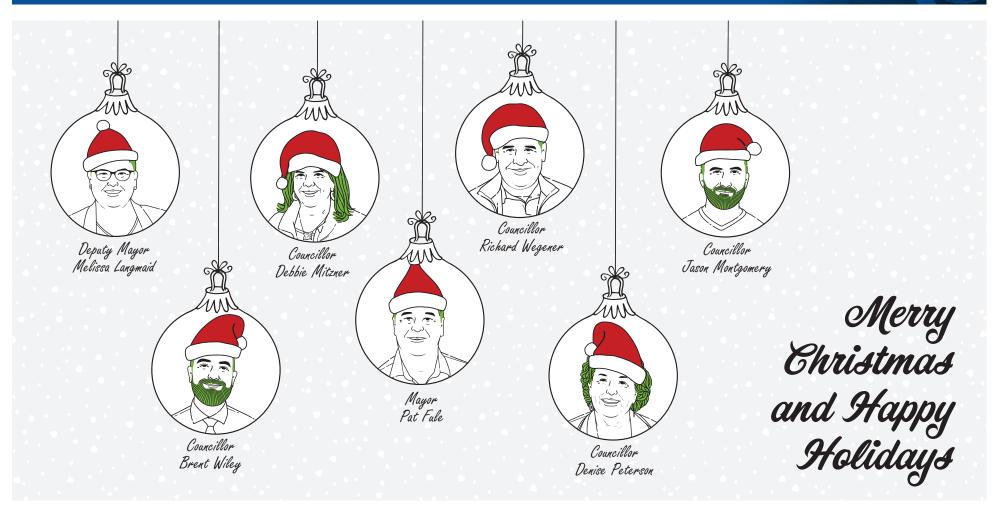


Upcoming Council Meetings

January 17, 2024 | 6 P.M. January 24, 2024 | 6 P.M. February 7, 2024 | 6 P.M. Regular Meeting of Council Committee of the Whole Regular Meeting of Council

Come Say Hi

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









Strathmore

Seasonal Collection Schedule

November 01, 2023 to April 30, 2024

January 1, 2024 new collection days

black cart/wastegreen cart/organic

20	21	20	25	30		_
					•	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
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10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	•	•		•	•	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	•	lacktriangle		•	lacktriangle	
24 /	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	holiday				•	

December 2023

February 2024					March 2024								
S	М	Т	W	Т	F	S	S	М	Т	W	Т	F	S
28	29	30	31	1	2	3	25	26	27	28	29	1	2
				•	•							•	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
		•	•	$\bullet \bullet$	lacktriangle				•	•	•	lacktriangle	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
		•	•	•	•				•	•	•	•	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
		lacktriangle	•	$\bullet \bullet$	lacktriangle				•	•	•	lacktriangle	
25	26	27	28	29	1	2	24 /	25	26	27	28	29	30
		•	•	•			31		•	•	•	•	

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.

April 2024							
S	M	Т	W	Т	F	S	
31	1	2	3	4	5	6	
		•	•	•	lacktriangle		
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
		•	•	•	•		
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
		lacktriangle	lacktriangle	lacktriangle	lacktriangle		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	
		•	•	•	•		
28	29	30	1	2	3	4	
		lacktriangle	lacktriangle	$\bullet \bullet$	lacktriangle		

January 2024

10 11

•

25

23 24

16 17 18

30 31

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								
<u>Tuesday</u>	Wednesday	Thursday	<u>Friday</u>					
Hillview	Aspen	Cambridge	Downtown					
Lakewood	Briarwood	Glenwood	Strathmore					
Strathaven	Brentwood	Grande Point Est.	Westmount					
Strathcona	Crystal Ridge	Green Meadows	Wildflower					
Range Rd 254	Édgefield	Maplewood						
· ·	The Ranch	Parkwood						
	Thorncliffe	Range Rd 250						
		George Freeman						
No Collection on Monday								

waste collection questions - 403-361-2108 / infrastructure@strathomre.ca waste cart repair or replacement - 403-361-2126 / operations@strathmore.ca strathmore.ca/waste-collection strathomore.ca/question