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# STRATHMORE TIMES

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VOLUME 16 ISSUE 7

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Page 2



Creative students

Page 5



Library recognition

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Look on Page 12 for  
**Town of Strathmore  
Municipal Notices**

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## Perfect partnership

**JOHN WATSON**  
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Golden Hills School Division and the Legacy Farm project have entered into a memorandum of understanding (MoU), fostering collaboration to support agriculture innovation and education in the local community.

Via a release, it was indicated that through the partnership, the two organizations aim to cultivate an environment that fosters new ideas, technologies and practices to advance the field of agriculture.

“This is just the start of our educational MoUs where we will be able to bring a consortium of educators to provide a curriculum based on incorporating agricultural practices, farming, and technology – specifically a lot of technology with our friends at Olds College,” said Scott Silva, Director of Business development with the Legacy Farm Project. “In addition, we have an MoU that is being finalized with the Western District Historical Society. This is another monumental point for the Legacy Farm project, as we are going to be working with them as our fundraising partner.”

Among the goals stated for the partnership between the Legacy Farm Project and the Golden Hills School Division, were to inspire future generations, create sustainability, accelerate education, grow young minds, and to create dedicated education and culinary spaces for dual credit opportunities aimed at high school students.

These dual credit opportunities would also extend to student work experience and career internship programs.

“What we are trying to do is have some education components for our students for Strathmore and area ... and we have worked through on what some of the pieces potentially may look like,” said Jeff Grimsdale, superintendent of schools with Golden Hills School Division. “They have an education component to what they are going to be developing and we want to be involved in that education component. That would be providing dual credit opportunities for our students, work experience, farm safety, green certificates, career internships, looking at having our elementary students going there for field trips ... there are a number of pieces that we would want to be involved with.”

Continued on Page 4



## Ready for puck drop

Youth hockey players anxiously await for the puck to drop at the annual Hockey Day in GA on Feb. 10. The long-standing annual event featured over 80 players who took part. See Page 7 for more coverage.

Joe Lepage Photo

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### Storm surge

The Strathmore Storm U9 White hockey team hosted Standard on Feb. 9 at the Strathmore Family Centre. The Storm, along with the other Strathmore U9 and U7 teams, will host their home tournament Feb. 18-19. **Joe Lepage Photos**




**Hospice Project UPDATE**  
**Thursday, February 22, 10 am**  
 Strathmore Municipal Library Program Room

Dr. Joni McNeely from the Wheatland & Area Hospice Society will join BTG to give an *update* on the new hospice project. This update will include new information, as well as an overview of palliative care.

Please register by Tuesday, February 20, by emailing Nancy at [btgalberta@outlook.com](mailto:btgalberta@outlook.com) or by calling 403-361-7216

[www.bridgingthegapalberta.ca](http://www.bridgingthegapalberta.ca)




Grade 8 students from Crowther Memorial Junior High planned, constructed and tested their cardboard boats at the Strathmore Civic Centre on Feb. 8 as part of their science curriculum. **Melissa Piche Photos**

## Cardboard boat hit the pool

MELISSA PICHE  
 Times Contributor

Armed with cardboard, duct tape and a few other odds and ends, the Crowther Memorial Junior High Grade 8 students constructed and raced cardboard boats at the Strathmore Civic Centre and Aquatic Centre on Feb. 9 as part of their science curriculum.

The school has been doing the cardboard boat races for five years now, having missed a couple due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Teacher Rachel Cool said the students worked on the boat concepts for three weeks leading up to launch day.

“All Grade 8 students participated in prototyping sessions where they looked at different aspects of construction and materials etc. to help them plan and kinda prototype on a smaller scale before diving into actual larger construction,” said Cool. “This year is the largest amount of teachers that we’ve had involved which is really cool.”

There were five teachers that helped guide the students through the planning and construction. There were 130 Grade 8 students in total who took part on race day.

Cool said she feels the students had an idea of what to expect on race day, but didn’t fully understand the entire concept until the boats were under construction.

“The actual engagement and participation ... was just so awesome,” said Cool.

Split into groups, the students spent the morning in the design and construction phase. Each squad made flags to represent their team and got ready to launch promptly after lunch.

In total, 26 boats set sail; not all were destined to make it - and some surprised.

“We’re super lucky to have a great partnership with the staff at the pool and Civic Centre and the Town (of Strathmore),” said Cool. “They’ve been super supportive of this project for the last five years. We’re lucky to have so many great community facilities in support of this project.”



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# Town amends animal trapping policy

JOHN WATSON  
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Town of Strathmore council adopted an amended policy regarding animal trapping, neuter and spaying practices during the Feb. 7, regular meeting.

The Animal Trapping, Neuter and Spay policy aims to maintain a humane, effective, and financially sustainable strategy for controlling domestic cats and non-domestic animals such as skunks within Strathmore.

This policy ensures animals are humanely trapped and released if applicable, while prioritizing the animals' health and welfare, while addressing public concerns surrounding feral and domestic animals at large.

The town's animal trapping, neuter and spay policy was approved by council in 2019. The policy was brought up for review and amendment as it was identified as being no longer in alignment with current municipal practices.

Some of the changes to the policy include a revised policy statement, updated definitions, updates to responsibilities for municipal enforcement staff, revisions to services provided, and updates to the disposal of animals.

"The rationale for this change is to provide some updated clarity on the policy, really that we trap two types of animals – skunks, non-domestic, and cats," said Mark Pretzlaff, director of community and protective services with the Town of

Strathmore. "The biggest changes to the policy ... we just provided some grammatical changes for section 3.2 of the new policy. In terms of 3.3, this is a new section and provides specific dates and makes sure certain animals are trapped during a specific time ... to ensure that if there is bad weather, that an animal is not left in a trap."

Pretzlaff continued that many of the changes and updates to the policy are largely clerical for legal purposes and maintain much of the previous procedures for dealing with animals at large in the town.

Town administration is also specified to not be required to handle or deal with trapped animals, as that is a defined responsibility of peace officers.

Coun. Debbie Mitzner, addressing concerns noted by residents, inquired about how raccoons would be dealt with under the policy.

Pretzlaff clarified raccoons fall under the jurisdiction of Alberta Fish and Wildlife, and are not addressable via town resources or the policy. This being due to requiring additional and specific resources to safely trap and relocate the animals, which the town does not currently have.

Following amendments proposed by Coun. Melissa Langmaid, council voted unanimously to pass the new policy.

More information about the town's animal trapping, neuter and spaying practices is available via the town website, as well as through the Feb. 7 regular meeting minutes and agenda package.

# Provincial sturling tournament to be hosted in Strathmore

JOHN WATSON  
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Alberta 55 Plus is hosting the Sturling Provincials at the curling club, beginning on Feb. 16, with a total of 48 curlers coming in teams from across Alberta to compete.

Three teams from Strathmore are competing, with the pairs consisting of Jim Adair and Joss Binns, Gus Cammer and Fred Sweere, and Ed Beaudin with Dick Frayn.

Sturling, or "stick curling" was invented in Didsbury, Alta. in 1998, and is similar to regular curling, save for a few exceptions. Teams consist of two players as opposed to four, and sweeping is allowed only from the hog line to the back of the house at the playing end.

The idea behind the sport is to be more inclusive for players with physical limitations who may be unable to sweep or brush, as well as to increase the challenge by not having the extra advantage sweeping provides to guiding thrown stones.

"I throw six rocks from one end, and my partner throws six rocks from the other end. There is no sweeping allowed, so it is all just straight normal curling, and the games typically last only about an hour, so it is a lot quicker than normal curling," said Joss Binns. "It is all about the draw. You have

to be able to draw right to the button multiple times. That is the key to the game."

A total of 12 teams are competing in each of the 55 plus, and 70 plus categories. These will be broken down into three pools of four teams each, which will compete in a round robin format.

Sunday, Feb. 18, will feature the playoffs between the Top 2 teams in each pool vying for the overall tournament win.

The victorious team will receive medals from Alberta 55 Plus. As sturling has not yet progressed as a sport beyond the provincial level, this will mark the end of the competition circuit.

As an alternative, Binns said there is a curling provincial competition taking place later this month in Cochrane to determine which team will advance to compete in Quebec in August.

"Sturling is growing in popularity all over Alberta," said Binns. "We have a sturling league now in Strathmore. It has been going for a number of years and we have 16 teams there playing. It certainly appeals to a wide group of people."

Admission to watch the games take place over the weekend is free at the Strathmore Curling Club. Games will be starting at 12:30 p.m. on Feb. 16.



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### CLUES ACROSS

- 1. One point south of due east
- 4. Coagulated blood
- 8. Fortifying ditch
- 10. Devotee of Hinduism
- 11. Trunk of a tree
- 12. Bank note
- 13. Capital of Guam
- 15. Study again
- 16. Covered with hoarfrost
- 17. Opening
- 18. Legendary Rolling Stone
- 21. Stray
- 22. Computer storing system
- 23. Signal
- 24. Pitching statistic
- 25. Human being
- 26. Malaysian isthmus
- 27. The "Blonde Bombshell"
- 34. A gland
- 35. Bluish greens
- 36. Endangered
- 37. Three-dimensional
- 38. In a way, precipitated
- 39. God associated with dissolution
- 40. Blemished
- 41. Flow or leak slowly
- 42. Disco legends The Bee
- 43. Midway between south and southeast

### CLUES DOWN

- 1. A way to board
- 2. Get down
- 3. Highly seasoned sausage
- 4. First day of month
- 5. Eurasian shrubs
- 6. The organ that bears the ovules of a flower
- 7. Small lake
- 9. Belief
- 10. Sunrooms
- 12. Metric weight unit
- 14. Vasopressin
- 15. Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!
- 17. One-time family room staple
- 19. Got back together
- 20. Anger
- 23. Sang merrily
- 24. Sea eagle
- 25. Military men
- 26. Kilo yard (abbr.)
- 27. Found in the sea
- 28. Protects from weather
- 29. Type of medicine
- 30. City along the Rhine
- 31. Animal disease
- 32. Martini ingredients
- 33. Get away
- 34. Lack of disunity
- 36. One-time European Commission officer

## STRATHMORE TIMES

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### Fantastic fun day!

The Wheatland 4-H district held their fun day at the Rec Room in Calgary on Jan. 26. Fun was had by 16 members from different 4-H clubs within Wheatland County.

Photo Courtesy of Erik Semeniuk



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**Thought for the Week**  
~  
*Painful lessons are usually doorways to new opportunities.*

## SUDOKU

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## Golden Hills, Legacy Farm sign MoU

Continued from Page 1

Silva added another MoU is being finalized between the Legacy Farm Project, and the Western District Historical Society. The agreement will see the historical society on board with the project as a fundraising partner.

“What this means is that the entire Legacy Farm – or the historical farm, as everybody knows it, is going to become an entirely community-based program,” he explained. “Everything there is going to be for educational purposes, family, interactive, and also to host different types of events for nonprofits.”

More information regarding the project is available online (legacyfarmproject.ca).

## Being proactive in auto theft prevention

ALBERTA RCMP

Alberta RCMP have noted a decrease in theft of motor vehicles, and theft from motor vehicles in 2023 in RCMP jurisdictions, as compared to the previous year.

In February 2023, there were 544 theft of motor vehicles (a 12 per cent decrease from 616 in February 2022) and 517 theft from motor vehicles (a 20 per cent decrease from 647 in February 2022).

In 2023, there were a total of 8,710 theft of motor vehicles (3 per cent decrease from 8,946 in 2022) and 7,824 theft from motor vehicles (13 per cent decrease from 9,029 in 2022).

Despite this decrease, it's still important to note that theft is still prevalent in some areas, and there are actions that we can all take to keep our vehicles secure.

Here are some tips to keep in mind:

- Always keep your doors locked when you are not in the vehicle, especially if it is running.
- Never leave your keys in your vehicle.
- Be sure to remove all valuables, and store purchases in your trunk until you get home.
- Use a steering wheel club.
- Always keep your garage locked, and do not store your garage door opener in your vehicle.
- Whenever possible, park in a well-lit area.
- Consider installing a vehicle tracking system.

Follow #JoinTheClub on our Facebook (@RCMPinAlberta) and X (@RCMP-ALberta) for the month of February for more tips on keeping your vehicle safe.

RCMP encourage everyone to report all thefts to police, by phone, in person, or using the RCMP app. Reports tell us where to look, who to look for, and where additional patrols may be required.

If you see a crime in progress, dial 911. If you wish to remain anonymous, contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS), online at www.P3Tips.com or by using the “P3 Tips” app available through the Apple App or Google Play Store.

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<p><b>RCCG PECULIAR PEOPLE ASSEMBLY (1 PET. 2:9)</b> 322 A 2nd Avenue, Strathmore 403-714-2283 Pastor: Sunday Adeola Fully resumed in-person services www.rccgstrathmore.com</p>	<p><b>STRATHMORE ALLIANCE</b> 325 1 Ave • 403-934-3543 Corner of 1 Ave &amp; Wheatland Trail Lead Pastor: Mike Wiebe Associate Pastor: John Duerksen Youth Pastor: Ian Scantland Sundays 10 am Join in person or online www.strathmorealliance.com</p>
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# Library recognizes former board member's 20 years of service

**JOHN WATSON**  
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Strathmore Municipal Library recognized Gary Jensen for his 20 years of service to the library while a part of its board of directors.

A small event to celebrate his tenure and his contributions to the library was hosted at the facility, Feb. 8, with several family, friends, members of the community, town councillors, and members of the library in attendance.

"Gary has been a board member for 20-plus years and we have some new board members in, so Gary has been asked to step down," said Ann Horn, chair of the Strathmore Library Board. "As the board, we are all volunteers and quite a few of the staff who work at the library are volunteers as well, so we think it is really important to make sure that people are recognized for what they do."

Horn explained terms on the library's board typically last a duration of three years. At the conclusion of a term, it will be decided by the board whether it is desired for a member to remain on.

Jensen was asked to step away from the board out of concerns regarding his time and health. Going forward, should he choose, he remains welcome to attend board meetings as a member of the general public.

"Gary is just a familiar face around here. He is in the library all the time, he always has that background that as a new member of the board, I do not have," said Horn. "He can step up and say, 'this is what we have done in the past,' and 'this is what has worked, this is what has not,' and that is invaluable to have that history."

Going forward, the library is aiming to establish a "Friends of the Strathmore Library" association and would like Jensen to be involved with that once it is set up. The purpose of such an organization would be to host fundraisers and other such events that the library itself may not be able to.

"He has helped out with anything that he possibly could, even though physically he was not able to do a lot of the manual type things," said Ruth McCluskey, a member of the library's Board of Directors. "He backs every project that we have taken on – we did a cookbook a couple of years ago, and he was a great help when we did that. Anybody that would give recipes or anything, he would get them for us."

A plaque recognizing Jensen for his years of service now hangs in the library to acknowledge his contributions to the facility.



A gathering was attended by friends, family, and colleagues of the library to present Jensen with a plaque noting his achievement and service.

John Watson Photo

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**YOUR WEEKLY HEALTH ADVICE**  
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**Capsule Comments**

School children and youths believe that vaping is relatively harmless. They don't understand that the practice is creating a new generation of nicotine addicts. Vaping devices are battery-operated and heat a cartridge of liquid nicotine into a mist to be inhaled into the lungs. Nicotine is a very addictive chemical and is currently hooking an increasing number of young users.

From the "what will they think of next" department... There is a drug-free solution for constipation. It's a small capsule, that when activated and swallowed, will vibrate in the intestines to stimulate the bowels to move. The capsule isn't absorbed but just passes out with the stools.

If you take herbal products and are going in for surgery, it's wise to discontinue the herbals for a few days prior to surgery. Herbs like ginkgo, garlic, ginger and ginseng have an anticoagulant effect and could keep blood from forming clots causing excessive blood-loss after the surgery. When creating a list of the medications you are taking, be sure to include all routinely-taken herbals and non-prescription products as well.

It has become accepted that COVID-19 is here to stay. It will be like the flu...making the rounds every year. But COVID-19, unlike flu, can evolve into Long Covid with symptoms that can last for months, even over a year. Avoiding infection is still important. Washing hands often and wearing a mask when appropriate. Covid is transmitted largely through the air so everyone is susceptible. Are your Covid booster shots up to date?

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# Alberta creates grant funding for community justice organizations

**JOHN WATSON**  
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Government of Alberta is investing \$1.2 million into creating one-time grant availability for organizations supporting alternatives to the formal court system.

Via release, it is detailed the Alberta Community Justice Grant is geared to increasing access to justice within a community setting that is proactive, culturally sensitive, trauma informed, and tailored to the specific needs of vulnerable Albertans.

Minister of Justice, Mickey Amery, held a round table conference to discuss the applicability and potential impacts the grant can, or aims to have for rural Albertans specifically.

"Spreading this message is incredibly important because I think that there are so many different ways that we can approach justice in this province. And this is just one of many tools that we have to help address this," he said. "On Jan. 30, we announced the Alberta community Justice Grant to give Albertans more options for resolving criminal, family, and justice civil matters outside of the courtroom."

Amery referred to the grants as an investment in the capacity and effectiveness of community-based organizations.

Community justice refers to initiatives which aim to involve respective localities to develop alternative ways of dealing with justice issues, and providing a forum for crime prevention specific to the community in which efforts are applied, outside of traditional policing and formal law enforcement.

These efforts may address a greater understanding of victim, offender, and local community needs, as opposed to applying justice and crime prevention as prescribed by a larger policing umbrella.

Eligible community-based organizations and interest groups can apply for a one-time grant between \$5,000 to \$25,000 to support current community justice programs or create innovative alternatives to the formal court system. Applications will be accepted from Jan. 31 to Feb. 29.

"I'm excited about this opportunity because this grant presents for rural communities to better their own community justice programs, reflecting their values and their priorities," he said. "The eligibility criteria is broad ... that favours some of the applicants who can demonstrate at least one of these things ... one of those is whether an organization or an applicant demonstrates that they will be able to strengthen the capabilities of community based justice organizations, not for profit entities, and or both the volunteer sector to provide access to justice programming covering either the family, civil, or criminal matters."

Further, he explained organizations can demonstrate that they are important empowering Albertans to identify, understand, and resolve their legal issues within a community framework, restoring confidence in Alberta.

More information regarding the grant funding, guidelines, and eligibility criteria are available through the Government of Alberta website.

**Chantelle de Jonge, MLA**  
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### Home ice advantage

Four local hockey players on the Okotoks Oilers U15AAA team had a true home game when they hosted the Calgary Buffaloes on Feb. 10 at the Strathmore Family Centre. Donovan Kautz (l-r), Kade Jensen, Carter Radford and Cash Colpoys, all from Strathmore, received the biggest cheers during the Oilers home game.

Joe Lepage Photo



### Musical night

The Strathmore Musical Arts Society held a dinner and concert, featuring the Bamboo Guppies, on Feb. 10 at the Strathmore Travelodge. The evening – dubbed as ‘a Valentines Affair’ – featured local musician Dennis Toner as the opening act.

Joe Lepage Photos



# Eying a gold medal

MELISSA PICHE  
Times Contributor

Molli Radford (12) and the other members of her U13AA Rocky Mountain Raiders female hockey team have their eyes set on gold as they head to the Alberta Winter Games on the Family Day long weekend Feb. 16-19 in Grand Prairie.

The Okotoks-based Raiders will be representing Zone 2 Big Country at the games coached by Mark Hallam. This is Hallam's first year as head coach although he's been an assistant coach in the past. Along with the Strathmore representation there are players from Okotoks, Diamond Valley, Foothills County, Nanton, Vulcan and Chestermere.

The U13AA is a new addition the Alberta Female Hockey League this season making it a division many people will be tuned into.

The team won their spot at the Winter Games by defeating Airdrie Lightning in two games in a best-of-three win in December at playdowns.

“It was kinda fun because they hadn't beat Airdrie in a league game and when it came down to when it totally mattered for this important event, (we) beat them in two (games) which was super awesome,” said Molli's mother, Darci Radford.

Molli has been playing hockey since she was 4.

“She played for Strathmore Storm and moved to the girls team, the Raiders, last year; her first year of U13.” Darci said. Molli plays mostly left wing, but coach Hallam also uses her as a centre – making her a force to be reckoned with on ice.

Molli's team is dedicated to their sport, they practice 3-4 times a week including a mobility dryland event weekly in Okotoks, making some of the nights quite long with travelling.

“Some nights we don't get home until 10:45 at night,” Darci said. “She loves it



Molli Radford is one of 17 players on the Rocky Mountain Raiders U13AA female hockey team who will be representing Strathmore at the Alberta Winter Games Feb. 16-19 in Grand Prairie, Alta.

Photo Courtesy of Lori Loree, Loree Photography

she wouldn't choose any other sport.”

To be eligible for the Alberta Winter Games teams must participate and win in their respective zone playoffs. The games will be a Round Robin style starting at 8 a.m. on Friday, Feb.16 and commencing with medal games and medal presentation on Monday Feb. 19.

The Winter Games is slightly different from other tournaments in the aspect of living arrangements for the athletes. The athletes will be staying in an “Athletes Village.”

The teams will be bunking in schools throughout Grand Prairie and each team will have a classroom they will call home while attending the games with catered meals and adult chaperones.

The countdown is on and Molli and her team are thrilled to be representing their zone at the Winter Games. If anyone would like more information on the Winter Games and where to watch, more information is available online (<https://www.2024awg.com>).

January 31, 2024 - April 30, 2024

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HOME BUYER PROGRAM


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### Great ride

Greg Rider performed at the Hope Bridges Community Concert on Feb. 6 at the Hope Community Covenant Church. Rider is an internationally acclaimed musician and inspirational speaker. The concert also featured the members of the Hope Bridges Music Discovery program led by accredited music therapist Kate Ager.

Melissa Piche Photos



### Hockey Day in GA

The Gleichen and District Minor Hockey Association held their annual Hockey Day in GA Pond Hockey Tournament on Feb. 10. There was plenty of hockey action taking place, along with the ever-popular skills competition.

Joe Lepage Photos

# County amends Hamlet Residential District Land Use Bylaw

**JOHN WATSON**  
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Wheatland County council approved and passed third reading for Bylaw 2023-27, being a bylaw to implement textual changes to Land Use Bylaw 2016-01.

The county's Bylaw 2023-27 serves the purpose of amending Bylaw 2016-01, to amend regulations for development permits not required, and the hamlet residential district.

Amendments made to 2016-01 include Part 9.11, Hamlet Residential General District, adding agricultural operations as a permitted use, and to update specific use regulations within the Hamlet Residential General District.

Additionally, Part 4.2 is amended so as to note development permits not re-

quired to allow agricultural operations within county-owned Hamlet Residential General District parcels to proceed without a development permit.

It was noted by county administration in the public agenda package, throughout the county, there are undeveloped county-owned lands which require regular maintenance such as mowing and weed prevention, that are underutilized.

These areas may be able to be utilized by local farmers and agriculturalists for uses such as planting ground cover and haying.

In addition to being of potential benefit to local farmers, use of undeveloped lands in this fashion may also reduce maintenance efforts and costs to the county.

To ensure that the agricultural operations are compatible with the residential uses in the Hamlet Residential General District, the amendment also proposed to add additional regulations to the bylaw following Part 9.11.

The additional regulations are intended to ensure agricultural operations within the designated district are on county-owned lands, are subject to a lease agreement with the county, and will not contain any farm animals or livestock.

Regarding the amendment to Part 4.2, prior to the passing of the bylaw amendment, agricultural operations did not require a development permit for operation within the Agricultural General, and Rural Business districts. Making the addition as part of the bylaw amendment effectively maintains consistency of legal and documentary

wording with other agricultural operations in the county.

Wheatland County council opened discussions of the bylaw amendment, following a presentation to introduce the document by administration, to a public hearing, giving residents who may be influenced by the potential changes an opportunity to make themselves heard.

No members of the public elected to speak regarding the proposed bylaw amendment and the public hearing section of the meeting was closed.

County council proceeded to calling the proposed bylaw amendment to question for first and second readings, permission to hold third reading, and third reading. Each of the motions were passed unanimously by the council.

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\*Some conditions, admin, other fees and taxes beyond the electricity and natural gas rates also apply.





## 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.

**February 20: Council Meeting**

**March 5: Council Meeting**

**March 12: 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.



Register here!  
[cropdrought.eventbrite.com](https://cropdrought.eventbrite.com)  
 agandenv@wheatlandcounty.ca Ph:403-333-6943

## Drought Resilient Crop Production

Strathmore Municipal Library (85 Lakeside Blvd, Strathmore)

February 28th, 2024 (9:00am to 4:00pm)

Cost: \$25 (coffee breaks & lunch included)

Take part in this opportunity to learn about enduring extended drought conditions in our region.

**Understanding Soil Moisture**  
 Jack Payne, Ultimate Yield Management Institute

**Soil Management for Drought Resiliency**  
 Rob Dunn, Consultant, FarmWise Inc.

**Drought Management Producer Panel**  
 Practical solutions for managing drought conditions

**Irrigation: maximizing the use of every inch**  
 Len Hingley, Irrigation Specialist, Alberta Agriculture

**Crop Systems for Managing Drought Risk**  
 Rob Dunn, Cropping System Specialist at FarmWise Inc. and Jack Payne

**Building your Farm Resiliency**  
 AFSC



## 2024 Farmer Pesticide Certificate Course

March 5th Wheatland County Administration Building

**When:** March 5th, 2024

**Where:** Wheatland County Administration Building

**Cost:** \$100 + tax (lunch included)

**Instructors:**  
 Dr. Bill Hamman & Erin McIlwraith

**Register at:**  
<https://2024pest.eventbrite.com>

**For more information contact:**  
 agandenv@wheatlandcounty.ca

The Farmer Pesticide Certification Course is a tool intended to help farmers reduce risks associated with pesticide use. This course is recommended under the Alberta Environmental Farm Plan but is also mandatory for farmers who wish to use restricted pesticides that require certification, such as aluminum phosphide.

Engaging in online home study for the course would be beneficial. The online training is available at the following link, or you can simply search for "Farmer Pesticide Training" on the Alberta Agriculture & Forestry website. [www.alberta.ca/farmer-pesticide-certificate.aspx](http://www.alberta.ca/farmer-pesticide-certificate.aspx)

The Certificate will be sent to you by Alberta Agriculture after successfully passing a closed book exam at end of day.

Dr. Bill Hamman and Erin McIlwraith are certified trainers who have been teaching pesticide application legislation, applicator, and environmental safety for many years.

Note: Recertification is no longer an option. The course must be retaken every 5 years.



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



## 2024 Wheatland Wind Community Benefit Grant

The application period for the 2024 Wheatland Wind Community Benefit Grant is now open!

The Community Benefit Grant is available to groups such as local registered charities, not-for-profit societies, organizations, associations, and schools.

Grant applications for up to \$10,000 are being accepted until March 1, 2024.

**For more information, visit our website and APPLY TODAY!**

<https://wheatlandcounty.ca/community-funding-opportunities/>

## Public Hearings

### Wheatland County Council Chambers February 20th, 2024 at 9 a.m.

Wheatland County will consider the following applications for Public Hearing at the regular Council meeting on Tuesday, February 20th, 2024.

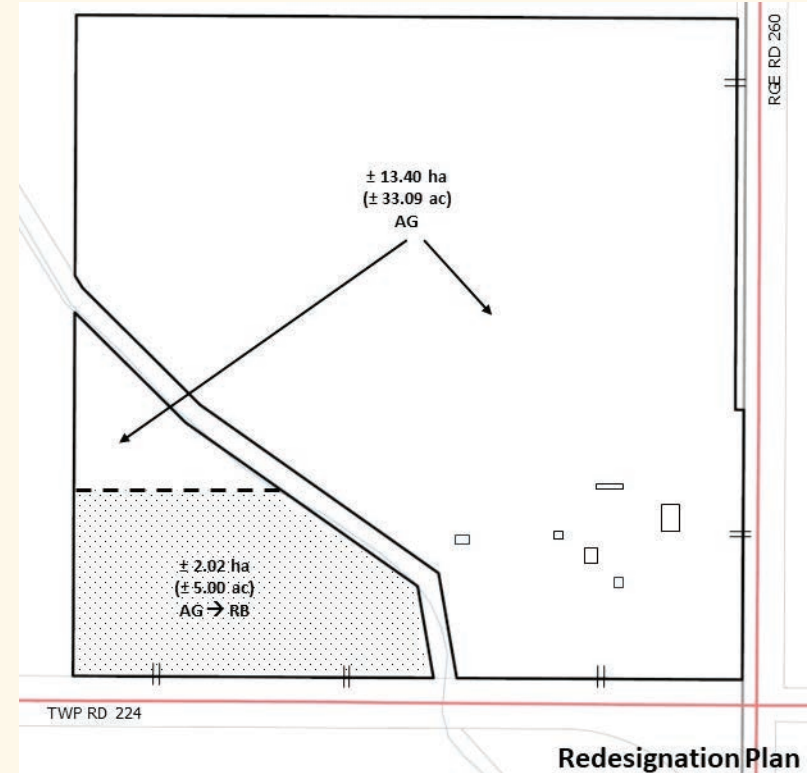
The following public hearings begin at 9 a.m. and proceed until all applications have been heard:

**Bylaw #: 2023-30**

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

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

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





# Strathmore Soccer launches men's league team

**JOHN WATSON**  
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Strathmore Soccer Association has announced the formation of their first men's team, which will be participating in the 2024 Calgary United Soccer Association (CUSA) summer season.

"A few years ago, the Strathmore Minor Soccer Federation made the transition to Strathmore Soccer Association so we could be more inclusive of the community at large," said Ryan Parkin, technical director of the Strathmore Soccer Association. "We wanted to provide soccer programming for all ages and start to develop a pathway right from grassroots – three-year-old players, all the way up to as old as we could play. Obviously, that takes some time to establish those frameworks."

With the launch of the men's team, Parkin added this will give players from the U17 and U19 categories a next step, should they choose to not go to college right away, or would like to have an avenue for playing soccer more casually and locally.

The Strathmore Soccer Association maintains a goal to eventually also launch a women's team, though unfortunately does not currently have the administrative and management capabilities to support it, as the organization is almost entirely comprised of volunteer operators.

"In one of my other hats, I have been working with another team in Calgary

that I manage on the men's side. We had players from our community playing there last season just as we prepared the framework or the groundwork to give us a men's team out here so we could have games at home," said Parkin. "With all the elements in place, we are able to take that next step and bring some adult competition to this region."

The season of play with CUSA will run from late April/early May until roughly mid-September. Scheduling is inexact as it will have to be flexible based on weather conditions.

League competition will be through a promotion-based system.

Strathmore will start in a Tier 4 or Tier 5 bracket, effectively at the bottom of the ladder, and the team will have to work its way up from there.

The regular season will consist of between 14 and 18 games. Players who decide to join the team will be expected for practices once a week.

"The fee structure is all on the website ... I know that it is fairly competitive in terms of pricing ... it includes one game a week organized through CUSA, it also includes free access to our recreational drop in, which is our co-ed program in Strathmore," said Parkin.

More information about the league including pricing is available online ([strathmoresoccer.ca](http://strathmoresoccer.ca)). For those who are potentially interested in participating in the men's league, as of Feb. 1, Parkin said more than half the available slots on the team's roster had been claimed.



## Supporting Alberta's economy

**CHANTELLE DE JONGE**  
Chestermere-Strathmore MLA

Alberta continues to be the best place to live, work, invest or grow a business and raise a family. The province saw an increase of 23,800 full-time jobs in January, building on the strong job growth we saw last year. The bulk of the gains were in the service-producing sector, led by transportation and warehousing (+10,000), finance, insurance, real estate, rental, and leasing (+6,000), and education (+5,800). In 2023, Alberta was responsible for 18 per cent of new jobs created in Canada despite having just 12 per cent of the national population, and our year-over-year employment growth rate (3.5 per cent) is still well above the national rate (+1.7). Our competitive tax rate, highly skilled workforce, abundant natural resources, and world-class education system means we will continue to be the economic engine of Canada.

As Alberta plays such a vital role in Canada's overall economic wellbeing, our government is pursuing a stronger voice on the national stage by expanding the province's presence in the nation's capital with a new office. The

Alberta Ottawa Office is set to play a key role in promoting the province and will help create stronger relationships with governments in Ottawa and across Canada while increasing the province's advocacy on matters of importance to Albertans. Premier Danielle Smith was joined by a delegation of Cabinet Ministers to celebrate the office's opening on Feb. 5.

Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation RJ Sigurdson also traveled to Ottawa as part of the delegation to discuss proposed federal policies that could impact agriculture and to represent the perspective of Alberta producers. We had the pleasure of welcoming Minister Sigurdson to Strathmore last week to meet with the Strathmore & District Ag Society, the Town of Strathmore, and other local stakeholders.

Minister Sigurdson is working with Rebecca Schulz, Minister of Environment and Protected Areas, to support our farmers through the drought caused by El Niño weather patterns. According to Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's latest assessment, more than 72 per cent of the country is experiencing moderate to exceptional drought conditions.

The Alberta government has established a new Water Advisory Committee to help prepare for drought and work to make every drop count in 2024. The six-person advisory committee includes leaders with experience in agriculture, irrigation, Indigenous, industry, rural and urban issues. It will act as an independent sounding board to help the government support communities, farmers and ranchers, and businesses share, conserve, and manage water during

a potential drought. The committee will give advice directly to Alberta's Minister of Environment and Protected Areas.

Finally, a reminder that I will be in Lyalta this week Friday, Feb. 16th from 9 - 11 am at Muirfield Lakes Golf Club (612 Muirfield Crescent). Stop by for a coffee and chat!

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

**NEXT GAME**

## Saturday, February 17 in Red Deer

*Strathmore Times*

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**Close battle**

Despite only surrendering one goal, the Strathmore Storm U18T2 fell 1-0 to the Indus Canes on Feb. 9 at the Strathmore Family Centre. The Storm close out the regular season with a pair of road games Feb. 16-17.

Joe Lepage Photos

# Lakewood of Strathmore incentivizing new homebuyers

**JOHN WATSON**  
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Lakewood of Strathmore is offering a \$5,000 cash incentive to new home buyers within the Community of Lakewood over the next few months.

“We wanted to create a homebuyer incentive or program that allowed people to come in, secure a new home with one of our builders in Phase 2A and allow them to be in a position so that they can buy a new home now and as rates come down, take advantage of rate drops over the spring and summer,” said Scott Silva, director of sales and marketing with Lakewood of Strathmore. “The thing is, we did not want them to wait for the rate drops because once you do that, the time has passed. The \$5,000 giveaway is simply that. A \$5,000 incentive that we will give di-

rectly to new buyers who sign a completed offer to purchase with our home builders and submit their deposit.”

Silva clarified that the \$5,000 is able to be used for anything the buyer chooses – whether that be for adding to their downpayment on their home, or spending it on a vacation.

He explained part of the goal with the incentive is to create something that may help buyers offset potential increases in interest rates on their home or on the downpayment required, without doing a lending or rate adjustment program.

“Part of this incentive in the way it was created with our lending partner, Connect First Credit Union, because a lot of times, clients will come in with five per cent down, but they might not have the closing costs available by putting this money forward,” said Sil-

va. “We now cover all of their closing costs, if not, most of them. The other thing that can also come in too is debt reduction. Sometimes debt servicing is a little high for individuals, so if they apply this money to pay down some debt, it can bring their debt servicing in line.”

The program is currently available for the first 20 buyers, though Silva said depending on the success it sees within its first 90 days, it may be worthwhile to extend the incentive longer.

This incentive extends to homes which will see completed construction in Phase 2A of the Lakewood community, with preferred builders working

with the Lakewood of Strathmore team.

More information regarding the incentive is available through liveinlakewood.ca, as well as through a Lakewood of Strathmore online social media campaign.

“We want to make sure that we can get word out to all our potential buyers in Calgary and around Canada, and even outside of Canada ... we have had a lot of positive migration to the region and Strathmore has been feeling that and I think we’re on the road to see a lot more,” said Silva. “We really just want to let everybody know Strathmore is open for business and come down and visit our amazing town.”

# Lakewood to host March Winterfest

**JOHN WATSON**  
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Lakewood of Strathmore and Connect First Credit Union are hosting a Winterfest in March, aiming to showcase new developments in the community of Lakewood.

“Winterfest is not only to show off all of our amazing builders – so we’ll have a meet the builders, the show homes will be open, but also, we’re going to have a lot of fun for the kids and family to really show what Strathmore and Lakewood is all about,” said Scott Silva, director of sales and marketing with Lakewood of Strathmore. “We invite everybody from Strathmore, Calgary, we are going to have on-location radio, we are going to be giving away maple syrup toffee, we are going to have fire pits there with our friends from the town so we will be able to cook smores, free hot chocolate and coffee, and then we will also have a street hockey tournament on our sports court.”

Silva added another objective of the event is to raise awareness towards Lakewood of Strathmore’s fundraising efforts for Not In My City – a facilitative organization which raises awareness and takes preventative actions against human trafficking and sexual exploitation, particularly on children and youth. Lakewood of Strathmore is commit-

ting to donating \$1,000 from every lot sold in Phase 2A of Lakewood’s development to Not In My City.

“Once all of the lots are sold in Phase 2A, we will be doing a cheque presentation. We only have six lots left available, so once those are sold, we will be donating all that money to Not In My City,” said Silva. “Nearly all of our lots in 2A are sold and our builders are building new homes already ... We are progressing quite well and we are actually moving very quickly towards Phase 2B, and then are ultimately continuing to develop the community into Phase 3, which is the lake.”

Though the Winterfest is aimed to be an annual event, last year’s celebration was cancelled due to adverse weather conditions.

This year, however, should the weather turn sour, Silva said there will be tents, garages and fire pits, in addition to the show homes being open to keep patrons warm.

“What we want to do is show off the community. We want to show off the lifestyle that is here out in Strathmore – small town living with all the big city amenities, and especially our builders,” said Silva.

Lakewood of Strathmore’s Winterfest is scheduled to take place March 2, from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. in Lakewood, at and around Brave Park.

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*The Charms—Denis & Megan May 4, 2024*

Tickets can be purchased at the Vault Cultural Collective or online at [www.smoreuc.com](http://www.smoreuc.com). Online purchases must be picked up at the door the night of the concert.



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**NOTICE**

**Wheatland County Pics and Posts**

is a non-commercial, private, website devoted to sharing the earlier history of such communities as Hussar, Gleichen, Cluny and area.



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

EGG FARMERS OF ALBERTA is pleased to announce that our New Entrant Program will be running in 2024! \*FEBRUARY 22, 2024 - webinar information session #1; \*MAY 1, 2024 - application window opens; \*MAY 2, 2024 - webinar information session #2; \*JUNE 25, 2024 - deadline for applications. For more information and to register for the town-hall webinars, please visit <https://eggs.ab.ca/healthy-farms/new-entrant-program/>

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[kellycamden@hotmail.com](mailto:kellycamden@hotmail.com)

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**Ace Custom Sewing.com**

Repair & Upholstery  
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Not taking any new clients because of medical issues until 2024

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**Upcoming Council Meetings**

February 7, 2024 | 6 P.M.  
 February 14, 2024 | 6 P.M.  
 February 21, 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.



# Heart Month

In North America and elsewhere, February is marked as 'Heart Month' - a time to bring attention to the importance of cardiovascular health, and what we can do to reduce our risk of cardiovascular disease.

Heart disease is currently one of the leading causes of death in Canada, second only to cancer. Approximately 2.6 million Canadian adults aged 20 and older live with ischemic heart disease (IHD), the most common type of heart disease.

Although rates of heart disease in Canada have been declining, largely due to advances in research, drug therapies and prevention efforts, there are many risk factors that still contribute to heart disease.

Lifestyle changes, big and small, can help reduce your risk. These include things such as eating healthier, getting proper sleep, being physically active, managing your stress, and limiting your alcohol intake. We may not be able to help with all these things, but there are plenty of ways to get get active with Strathmore's Recreation Team. Here are just a few:

**Aquatic Centre**

**Winter Swimming Lessons**

**Schedule released:** January 15, 2024  
**Registration opens:** January 30, 2024 at 9 a.m.  
 (Strathmore and Wheatland County residents)  
 February 1 at 9 a.m. (all other members)

**Spring Swimming Lessons**

**Schedule released:** March 18, 2024  
**Registration opens:** April 2, 2024 at 9 a.m.  
 (Strathmore and Wheatland County residents)  
 April 4, 2024 at 9 a.m. (all other members)

**Summer Swimming Lessons**

**Schedule released:** June 10, 2024  
**Registration opens:** June 25, 2024 at 9 a.m.  
 (Strathmore and Wheatland County residents)  
 June 27, 2024 at 9 a.m. (all other members)

**Family Centre Arena**

Sponsored by UFA Strathmore

**Free Skate Sundays**

Dates	Time
Feb 4, 2024	2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Feb 11, 2024	2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Feb 25, 2024	2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Mar 3, 2024	2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Mar 10, 2024	2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Mar 24, 2024	2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Mar 31, 2024	2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Apr 7, 2024	2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

**Strathmore Motor Products Sports Centre**

Heart Month Exclusive ❤️

**Class Showcase Event**

Join us on Friday, February 9 as we showcase a free sampling of classes in support of Heart Month.

Event (Feb 9, 2024)	Time
Mini Movers (ages 2-5)	4 to 4:30 p.m.
Flex and Flow	5:30 to 6 p.m.
Cardio and Strength Conditioning	6 to 6:30 p.m.
TRX, Bike, and Run	6:30 to 7 p.m.
Heart Opening Yoga	7 to 7:30 p.m.
Roller Glow Night (all ages, helmets required)	7:15 to 7:45 p.m.
Neon Dodgeball (ages 12+)	7 to 7:30 p.m.

**PD Day/School Closure Camps**

Are you looking for activities to keep your kids busy while they have days off from school? Look no further. Strathmore Motor Products Sports Centre is now offering day camps on PD / School Closure Days!

Course ID	Dates	Days	Time	Cost
26332	Jan 31, 2024	W	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	\$47.50
26334	Feb 9, 2024	F	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	\$47.50
27467	Mar 15, 2024	F	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	\$47.50
27481	Apr 19, 2024	F	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	\$47.50
27482	May 3, 2024	F	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	\$47.50
27483	May 17, 2024	F	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	\$47.50
27484	Jun 7, 2024	F	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	\$47.50
27485	Jun 28, 2024	F	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	\$47.50

**Winter Break Camp**

Course ID	Dates	Days	Time	Cost
27687	Feb 21 to 23, 2024	W, Th, F	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	\$120

**Spring Break Camp**

Course ID	Dates	Days	Time	Cost
27480	Apr 2 to 5, 2024	T, W, Th, F	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	\$180

**Summer Day Camps**

Registration for 2024 Summer Day Camps opens February 15, 2024. We're excited to be introducing new age groups, continuing with pre-care services, and offering half-day options.

- Age groups:**
- Four to five (half-day)
  - Six to seven
  - Eight to nine
  - Ten to twelve

Theme	Dates	Days	Time	Cost
Water Fun	Jul 2 to 5, 2024	Tu, W, Th, F	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	\$148
Splash and Play (Swim Lessons)	Jul 8 to 12, 2024	M, Tu, W, Th, F	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	\$252
Sport and Explore	Jul 15 to 19, 2024	M, Tu, W, Th, F	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	\$185
Multisport Adventure	Jul 22 to 26, 2024	M, Tu, W, Th, F	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	\$185
Splash and Dash (Swim Lessons)	Jul 29 to Aug 4, 2024	M, Tu, W, Th, F	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	\$252
Neon Days	Aug 6 to 9, 2024	Tu, W, Th, F	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	\$148
Balls and More	Aug 12 to 16, 2024	Mo, Tu, W, Th, F	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	\$185
Olympic Days	Aug 19 to 23, 2024	M, Tu, W, Th, F	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	\$185
Let's Celebrate	Aug 26 to 29, 2024	M, Tu, W, Th, F	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	\$148

**New Camp for Kindergarten Children**

Is your child in Kindergarten and out of school on June 20? Are you wondering what to do until summer camps start? Join us for a week of exploring sports, going to the park, and meeting new friends. This new camp offering has both full-day and half-day options available.

Course ID	Dates	Days	Time	Cost
27670	Jun 21, 2024	F	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	\$47.50
27477	Jun 24 to 28, 2024	M, Tu, W, Th, F	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	\$185

Learn more at [Strathmore.ca/Recreation](http://Strathmore.ca/Recreation)  
 Register for classes and camps at [Strathmore.ca/RecSchedule](http://Strathmore.ca/RecSchedule)



**WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU**

**SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS FOR A CHANCE TO WIN!**

Community Futures and their partners are surveying residents to understand labour needs.

Your input will help create change in your community and your region! Survey closes on February 9!

Participate for your chance to win a brand new iPad!\*

GO TO THE LINK BELOW OR SCAN THE QR CODE TO PARTICIPATE

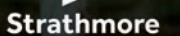
\*Must be 15 years old or older to participate.

[surveymonkey.com/r/G7BNF7F](https://surveymonkey.com/r/G7BNF7F)



**Did someone say license renewal?**

License your pet by February 29. It's their best bet for making it home safe.



**If dogs can't use it, neither can a firefighter.**  
 Clearing your hydrant saves firefighters (and dogs) precious minutes.

Adopt-a-hydrant today at [Strathmore.ca/Adopt-A-Hydrant](http://Strathmore.ca/Adopt-A-Hydrant)



**Tender Opportunities**

We're always on the lookout for great partners to help us deliver valuable services to our community.

To learn more about current tendering opportunities, visit [Strathmore.ca/Tenders](http://Strathmore.ca/Tenders)