

# Review policy discussion

JOHN WATSON Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Town of Strathmore Committee of the Whole discussed the town's Financial Reserve Policy, No. 1817, during the Jan. 15 meeting.

Leana Ashbacher, senior manager of financial services, presented the policy to the committee, with intent to receive feedback on potential changes prior to the document being presented before council to be voted on.

"I wanted to bring two reserve policies for discussion: one was an operating reserve for snow clearing, and one was for land capital," said Ashbacher. "It was also brought to my attention there is also another capital reserve that we need to add into this policy, and this is due to a contractual agreement with our joint use agreement – so we need to have the George Freeman Sports Reserve."

Updating the reserve policy would serve to support any operational challenges the town may be facing, and will establish a higher level of transparency between council and the local community regarding exactly how reserves are organized, as well as utilized.

Ashbacher explained during the 2025 budget deliberations, council approved an annual repair, maintenance, and replacement contribution of one per cent, which in so doing contributed to the overall tax increase to local residents and businesses.

Within the fiscal sustainability reserve, town administration recommended to council that the budget for snow clearing be pulled from that reserve, and to create a completely new reserve designated to that purpose.

Such action would be intended to create









Kings split

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more transparency for council, administration, and the community regarding use of funds.

Should the amendment to create a specific new reserve for snow clearing, funds from the fiscal sustainability reserve earmarked for snow clearing would also be transferred to the new reserve.

Continued on Page 4

# **Opening concert**

The Arts of 817 hosted their first concert of the new year, bringing in the Calgary Burns Club Singers on Jan. 18 at the Strathmore United Church. The group celebrated Robbie Burns Day a week early with wonderful Scottish music. Joe Lepage Photo

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Hawks host The Holy Cross Collegiate Hawks junior high boys and girls basketball teams hosted their annual tournament Jan. 17-18 at the school. The boys dropped a close 50-47 loss to Dr. Elliott Community School Stars to open the tournament, while the girts also lost to the Stars in their opener.

Joe Lepage Photos

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# **Province releases aquatic Invasive Species Task Force recommendations**

#### **IOHN WATSON**

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Provincial Alberta Invasive Species Task Force has recommended seven measures to combat the spread of aquatic invasive species, putting particular emphasis on reducing the spread of invasive mussels.

These species, which include Zebra and Quagga mussels, are not native to Canada and are capable of causing significant damage both to local ecosystems and infrastructure.

"Federally, I had 44 MPs that have signed letters (regarding) what we need to do about it. I have met with people from the northwest United States; they have spent a lot of time and money on trying to keep the zebra mussels and quagga mussels out of their waterways," said Bow River Riding MP, Martin Shields. "It is now spread in Manitoba, and we knew it was in Lake Winnipeg years ago, but it is now into the river systems and it is causing a lot of problems. This is a huge threat to our irrigation world."

Shields added if invasive mussels are enabled to enter Lake Chestermere, both its recreational uses, as well as the water drawn from the water body for irrigation purposes will be severely impacted.

Among the potential damages to infrastructure is the clogging of pipes used by municipalities to draw water.

The recommendations included in the report are as follows:

To implement a mandatory annual watercraft sticker initiative in Alberta with all revenue dedicated to supporting the Alberta Invasive Species program, as well as a second inspection sticker that would provide visual proof of inspection when reporting to an inspection station.

The Minister of Environment and Protected Areas advocated to the federal government on behalf of the Alberta Invasive Species Program for more chemical options to be registered to treat aquatic invasive species.

That Environment and Protected Areas establish an eDNA monitoring program for aquatic invasive species, as well as create an invasive mussel-specific early detection and rapid response plan, and a detailed tactical plan.

Tabletop and field-based exercises for invasive mussel response training in Alberta is to be conducted in May 2025, and May 2026.

"I do not know if it is good enough, but at least we are getting somewhere in Alberta, and hopefully being able to slow it down from coming into

### Lakewood experiencing significant construction projects

JOHN WATSON

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Lakewood of Strathmore has officially announced the ongoing construction of what will come to be the 18-acre manmade lake within the growing neighbourhood.

"This is a milestone that we have been working towards as the new group, since we took over the community of Lakewood," said Scott Silva, director of sales and marketing with Lakewood of Strathmore. "I always like to use the joke, 'we are not called Pondwood, we are called Lakewood for a reason,' so getting to this milestone is not only the centerpiece of the project but it means that so much more is happening."

In order to set the stage for the lake's construction, the area must first be excavated in order to prepare for the foundations both for the water body to exist, as well as for the infrastructure which will maintain it.

Silva added among other avenues which may attract people to reside within Lakewood, one goal within the community is to offer a dramatically more affordable opportunity to reside adjacent to a significant body of water.

"If you look at our close neighbors like Calgary where anything on a lake community is going to run you close to \$2 million and up, we are planning on being at least half that and even under in a lot of areas with what we are building," said Silva.

"Imagine living on a lake similar to Lake Mahogany or Lake McKenzie where you have year-round activities (such as) skating in the winter, non-motorized recreational activities in the summer, and you are talking half the price of what you see in Calgary."

With the onset of the lake construction, other amenities and residential construction is closely following in its wake.

Further developments that are not to be watered

"All of the water is managed through several regulatory bodies here in Alberta. The primary one I think that everybody is going to want to look at is how the water maintained, and that is done through several different steps working with those regulatory bodies," said Silva. "It is a full recreational lake ... which covers a large general swath of activities but ultimately non-motorized is what we are looking to achieve, so that means swimming, paddleboarding, and canoeing."

Additional residential developments

Also on the horizon for construction in the community of Lakewood are 51 residential townhome units.

These units are described as projected to each be between 1,300 and 1,500 square feet of living space for future residents.

Silva, who, regarding this development, spoke as the director of marketing for Lakewood Towns, explained the project will be broken down into several phases. Phase 1 will consist of 12 of these units.

"Out of these first 12 units, seven of them ... are going to be sold at a loss. The developer is wanting to not only accelerate activity, but get the project moving as fast as possible," he said. "The developer of this land acquired the title in 2024 based on the demand not only in Strathmore, but also the progress of Lakewood ... these units right now are being sold at a value that does not account for a lake being built."

Among the construction options being made available are contingencies for those who may wish to create suites for seniors and extended family.

These units are not being proposed as something to be a first-time home purchase, nor to be thought of as contributing to local affordable housing options.

"I would not call these units 'entry level,' because of their finishes and whatnot, but they do allow for an affordable lifestyle by combining family members or having in-laws or to be inserting a potential rental," said Silva. The current goal is to potentially see people moving into newly constructed homes by the end of 2025, or in early 2026.

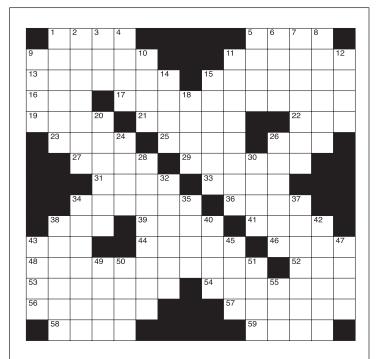
Southern Alberta," said Shields.

Among other aquatic invasive species mentioned in the recommendations to establish protections against are the Prussian Carp, plants including Flowering Rush and Phragmites, as well as Whirling Disease which affects salmonid fish such as trout.

Included in the recommendations report is information regarding how species such as Zebra and Quagga mussels specifically cause detrimental impacts to invaded water bodies, to developed infrastructure, and to human activities.

The recommendation report states Alberta is currently mussel free, however it faces significant risk due to proximity to infested waters in the US, and in Central to Eastern Canada.

The full report has been made publicly available through the Province of Alberta website (https://www.alberta.ca/ aquatic-invasive-species-task-force).



### **CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. "Loser" rocker
- 5. Partner to relaxation
- 9. Mixing
- 11. Winged nut
- 13. Expression of blame 15. Vast ocean
- 16. Comedienne Gasteyer
- 17. Multiply
- 19. Meat from a pig (French)
- 21. Related
- 22. Rocker Stewart
- 23. Surprise completely
- 25. Loon
- 26. Canister
- 27. Large, deep-bodied fish
- 29. Takes forcefully
- 31. Oil cartel

**CLUES DOWN** 

- Aires, city
- 4. Door handle
- 5. Competition

- 8. Large mollusk
- 10. Former U.S. presidential
- 26. Male reproductive gland 28. Controversial beliefs

33. Palmer and Hepburn are two

36. Places down purposefully

34. More than one

38. Pitching statistic

39. Type of sword

44. Mixes slowly

48. Strong belief

54. Soup cracker

58. Actor Sean

59. Changes

53. More frightening

52. One's physique (slang)

57. One who carries something

41. Witnesses

43. Body part

46. Satisfy

56. Teaches

- - 30. Z Z Z 32. One who confines another
  - 34. Bishop
  - 35. Garlands
  - 37. Bird that flies by the coast
  - 38. Optical device
- 40. Greek goddess of discord
- 42. Some are "Rolling"
- - 3. Type of gene
  - 6. Muslim ruler title
  - 7. Hunting expeditions

9. Bind securely

- 2. Coarse grass

down include additional pathways throughout the community, and a new road along the west boundary of Lakewood.

Excavation for the lake officially started shortly prior to the new year. Current projections for the construction of the lake estimate a timeline of approximately two years until it is completed.

- candidate 11. 2-point plays in football 12. Breezed through 14. Type setting 15. Felt for 18. Codified rules 20. Small dome 24. Chevrotain
- 43. Formerly (archaic) 45. Thrust a knife into 47. German river 49. Atomic #26 50. Make a grotesque face 51. Primordial matter of the universe 55. Chinese philosophical principle



### STRATHMOE

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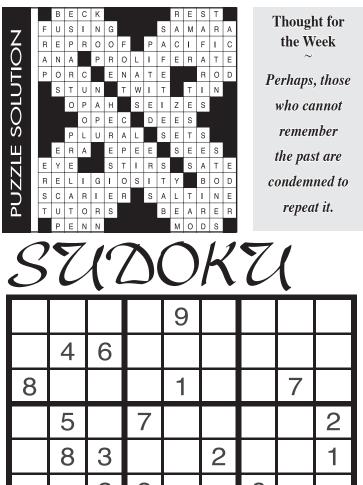
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# ASB updates bursary, awards policies

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Wheatland County Agriculture Service Board (ASB) is working to introduce a new awards policy and establish a scholarship awards committee.

Additionally, county administration recommended the ASB approve updates to the existing bursary policy.

The updates proposed during the Jan. 15 meeting of the board, retained the original meaning and intent of the policy, but included reorganization, rewording, and expansion of the sections to enhance clarity and structure.

A drafted awards policy was presented before the ASB, July 3, 2024. A significant amendment to the presented draft was the inclusion of a Master Farm Family award, which has since been incorporated into the updated draft policy.

This award is designed to honour families who excel in technical farm production, sustainability practices, team-based farm business management, involvement in the agricultural industry, and community service.

County administration was also directed to include the BMO Farm Family Award and the Alberta Century Farm and Ranch Award within the awards policy.

As part of the updates to the bursary policy, administration recommended renaming the policy to the "Scholarship Policy," as it would denote an award based on individual achievement, instead of a bursary, which typically implies need-based financial assistance.

The ASB provides up to \$10,000 in scholarships annually, with individual awards ranging from a minimum of \$500, to a maximum of \$2,500. This is based on the number of eligible candidates who have applied, and the final approval of Wheatland County council.

To be eligible for a scholarship, students must be enrolled at a recognized post-secondary institution, be accepted into a program that is in or supports the field of agriculture or environmental science, have graduated high school within three years of the application deadline, and reside within the boundaries of Wheatland County.

Students from Strathmore have been awarded bursaries

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Corner of 1 Ave & 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

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from Wheatland County in previous years, however going forward, the scholarship awards committee will oversee awards and will make recommendations to the ASB regarding applicants who do not necessarily live in Wheatland County specifically.

During discussion, the ASB outlined concerns regarding potential applicants who do not specifically reside within the county. Suggestions for how to approach such applicants included interviews, biographies within applications, or some proof of knowledge regarding agricultural practices and food production within the county.

A motion to approve the updated bursary policy as it was amended, including renaming it to "Scholarship Policy," was unanimously approved by the ASB following discussion.

# **Council begins** review of financial reserve policy

### Continued from Page 1

"Administration is also recommending that we create a new reserve for land capital to ensure that we are clear and transparent how any surplus funds or transfers from sales of land are earmarked for strategic land purchases," said Ashbacher. "We heard loud and clear from council that we need to have a land strategy, but in order to have a land strategy we better have a tool on how we are going to track this."

With the support of council, the updated policy draft will be brought before council during the regular meeting scheduled for Feb. 5 for approval and adoption.

Following this, the next step suggested to be taken by administration is to construct a 10-year forecast for each financial reserve as part of the 2026 budget process.

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	7			5		
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### **Open house**

Sacred Heart Academy was treated to a performance of "Rapunzel," presented by the Alberta Musical Theatre on Jan. 17. Afterwards, parents were invited to the school's open house where they could visit their child's classroom.

**Mario Prusina Photo** 



Back in 1949, a French chemist was trying to find a new antihistamine to aid in anaesthesia when operating on soldiers in shock. When this new drug was injected, the patient became very calm. Further research found that the chemist found the first of a new class of drugs called antipsychotics. The drug was chlorpromazine and has since that time spawned dozens of new drugs used in the treatment of psychiatric patients.

RLS (Restless Legs Syndrome) is the most common condition you've probably never heard of. About 7% of the population has this neurological condition. There's a website on this topic containing some good information about this frustrating condition. The site address is: www.rls.org Give it a try.

Thinking of trying cannabis? Start with a low dose for several days to see how it affects you, especially if it contains THC. Use caution with edibles. It can take up to 2 hours for a THC edible to take effect. Choose preparations that are easy to measure. Quality counts so buy only from reputable outlets. Consult your doctor and pharmacist to discuss drug interactions. Finally, don't smoke it.

Here's another New Year resolution idea. Add more fish to your diet. Fish is known to be good for the heart. But a study done on the effect fish had on bone health found that those with the highest fish intake (3 or more servings per week) experienced lower loss of bone density. Darker-flesh fish like salmon, mackerel, sardines and swordfish are best.

Hours: M-F: 9-7 pm Sat: 9-6 pm • Sun & Holidays: 11-5 pm



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# **Buffaloes** survive Storm

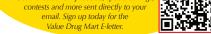
Strathmore Storm U15T3 team hosted the Siksika Buffaloes on Jan. 19 at the Strathmore Family Centre. In the end, the Buffaloes claimed a 5-3 win.

Joe Lepage Photos



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## **Upcoming Meetings**

February 4, 2025 | 9 a.m. Council Meeting February 11, 2025 | 9 a.m. Municipal Planning Commission February 11, 2025 | 9 a.m. Public Presentation Committee

Council and committee meetings are open to the public in person and via teleconference. To join the call, dial 403-917-1764 and enter the PIN 47001 when prompted. You can also watch the meetings later on YouTube. Agenda packages are available on our website. For public hearings, it is best to attend in person.

### Wheatland County invites applications for 2025 **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, 2025.

Please note that eligibility for 2025 funding is dependent on filing all previous funding reports with Wheatland County by January 31, 2025.

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

### Seeking Subdivision and Development Appeal Board **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 Wheatland County Subdivision and Development Appeal Board Clerk, Michelle Van Haarlem at (403) 361-2000 or sdab@wheatlandcounty.ca.

> NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING Subdivision and Development Appeal Board (SDAB)

The hearing will be held at the Wheatland County Council Chambers: 242006 Range Road 243 (East of Strathmore off Hwy 1) (mail: 242006 Rge Rd 243, Wheatland County, AB T1P 2C4) on Thursday, February 6, 2025, commencing at 9 a.m regarding the following:

> SDAB File: DPA 2024-078 Re: Refusal of Development Permit 2024-078 for an Abattoir (On-Farm Slaughter) Legal Description: SE 01-24-26W4; Plan 1811393, Block 6, Lot 1

### Public Hearings Wheatland County Council Chambers February 4th, 2025 at 9 a.m.

Wheatland County will consider the following applications for Public Hearing at the regular Council meeting on Tuesday, February 4th, 2025. The following public hearings begin at 9 a.m. and proceed until all applications have been heard:

Bylaw #: 2024-30 (LU2024-014) Legal Description: NW 22-25-25-W4M - Plan 1412199; Block 2; Lot 1 Proposal: To redesignate the subject lands from HC District to IG District, to facilitate the development of a water treatment and equipment storage and supply business.



Lot 1, Block 2, Plan 1412199, within NW-22-25-25-W4M

Bylaw #: 2024-07 (Goldfinch Raw Water Borrowing Bylaw) County-wide

Proposal: The Council of Wheatland County, has given first reading to Borrowing Bylaw 2024-07 which will, upon final passage and approval, authorize Wheatland County to borrow \$7.75 million for a period not to exceed twenty (20) years, from the Province of Alberta or another authorized financial institution, by issuance of debentures, to construct a raw water line from wells diverting water from the Bow River to the Goldfinch Area Structure Plan (ASP). This project will improve water infrastructure and support future development in the Goldfinch area. There shall be levied and raised in each year of the debenture, levies or fees towards users of the Goldfinch Raw Water Line to pay the principal and interest falling due each year. (Read more at https:// wheatlandcounty.ca/publicnotices/)

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 Ac t Section 33 (c) and subsequent versions of the Act.

### 2025 Municipal Election

Every four years Wheatland County holds a Municipal Election for residents to elect their Councillors. In Wheatland County, one Council member is elected per division, for a total of seven Councillors. Later, at the organizational meeting, Councillors nominate the Reeve amongst themselves.

The municipal election is on Monday, October 20, 2025.

- Nomination Period: January 1, 2025 September 22, 2025
- Nomination Day Deadline: September 22, 2025, at 12:00 p.m.
- Advanced Polls: Oct. 11, 10am to 5pm; Oct. 15, 12pm to 8pm; and Oct. 18, 10am to 5pm

For more information please visit our website, wheatlandcounty.ca/2025-municipal-election/



At the hearing(s) the SDAB will hear from the appellant(s) and/or the agent; from any person who claims to be affected by the proposal; and from any other person who wishes to make representation AND whom the SDAB agrees to hear. Comments may be made verbally at the hearing, OR if you wish to present a written submission, you must have copies of the same to be distributed at the commencement of the hearing. Any submissions you make are collected under the authority of subsection 33(c) of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act for the purposes set out in sections 678 and 686 of the Municipal Government Act. Submissions will form part of a report available to the public and may be referenced in the Board's public written decision. If you have any questions regarding the collection or retention of this information, contact the Wheatland County FOIP Coordinator at (403) 934-3321.

A time limit may be imposed on verbal submissions, at the discretion of the Chairperson. We would appreciate receiving your written comments by end of day Thursday, January 30, 2025, regarding this matter; emails can be sent to sdab@wheatlandcounty.ca

The complete file for this application may be inspected in the County Office during regular office hours – Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Information regarding the appeal will be posted on the Wheatland County website for public to view prior to the Hearing date.

Should you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact Michelle Van Haarlem at the Wheatland County Administration Office (403) 361-2000 or email sdab@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.



# **OPEN HOUSE** MEETING







LOCATION Carseland Community Hall

330 Railway Avenue W, Carseland Alberta



# Kings thinking ahead to end of season, prepare for imminent playoff run

#### JOHN WATSON Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Following a loss to the Medicine Hat Cubs, and a decisive win against the High River Flyers, the Agra Risk Wheatland Kings are setting up a game plan for the imminent start to their playoff run.

The Kings were defeated 8-5 by the Cubs, Jan. 17, then immediately bounced back, claiming an 8-0 victory over the Flyers on home ice Jan. 19.

With a current record of 24-7-1, the Kings are currently seated second in the South Division by a paper-thin margin.

Currently, the Okotoks Bisons lead the pack at 51 league points. The Kings are seated just behind them at 49, and the Cubs round out third place with 48 points.

"We went down to Medicine Hat on Friday, it was a pretty big game for us, but we were shorthanded. We were missing about three or four guys who are pretty important for us," said Doug Raycroft, head coach of the Kings. "We gave up a lot of goals, which, we have been really good at our goals against for most of the year, so that was I think the most goals that we have given up in a game. It was disappointing."

Raycroft explained with the league standings seated as they currently are, it is very likely that the Kings will be matched up against the Cubs early in the playoffs.

Despite the commanding victory over the Flyers, Raycroft explained he is relatively unconcerned about the results against the last place team, but rather how the Kings perform against their more threatening opponents.

"When you play a team like Medicine Hat, they have got a couple of really proficient goal scorers so playing good, sound, defensive hockey is the way to beat those teams. When we have had success against them, we have been really strong defensively," he said. "We are going to work on that and just be ready to go for that first round of playoffs, which is only about three weeks away."

The Kings roster currently has no players on suspension, however Kobe Gosling, Josh Alberda, and Kyle Provencher have all been away from the ice due to a variety of reasons. Raycroft hopes to see his full roster returned to play by the time playoffs begin.

Leading up to playoffs, Raycroft is aiming to raise the skill floor of his entire team as opposed to shortening his bench and lessening the time some of his players have on the ice.

"We have got some really strong players and some players who are not quite



The Wheatland Kings got back to their winning ways when they disposed of the High River Flyers 8-0 on Jan. 19 at the Strathmore Family Centre. After falling 8-5 on the road in Medicine Hat on Jan. 17, the Kings scored 5 power play goals to get back in the win column two days later versus the Flyers.

Joe Lepage Photos



# *Kameron Jones Agricultural Sales- Airdrie*



# A D D R E S S





### **Chantelle de Jonge, MLA** Chestermere-Strathmore 403-962-0126

129 2nd Avenue Strathmore, AB T1P1K1

Chestermere.Strathmore@assembly.ab.ca

My name is Kameron Jones, and I am your new Agricultural Sales Rep for your area with Noble Equipment in Olds.

I grew up on a small ranch and backgrounding feedlot west of Calgary. I started my career path completing my apprenticeship in Agricultural Mechanics with Agro Calgary in 2004. I became a Journeyman Mechanic specializing in all Ag machines but especially hay and forage tools. I also spent many summers as a road technician keeping machines running during the busy seasons. In 2011 I had the opportunity to join a large ranch west of Calgary as their service technician/lead farm hand, which in turn transitioned into the Farm Manager position shortly after. We would produce hay, silage and a little grain to support the Cattle heard.

After leaving the ranch, I returned to my technician background & started working at Noble Equipment and spent time in 2024 supporting the entire range of equipment that Noble sells.

In summary, I am very excited to tackle this new chapter and stay connected with the ag community. I would like to thank you for your past business with Noble Equipment and look forward to meeting with you at your convenience, in supporting you with our range of products. I realize Joe Messina has left "big" shoes to fill, but I also know I will be able to support you and your business in a different way with my past experience.



as strong, so we are working on things so that we do not have to play some of our players too much. It is a lot easier to play a series when you can play everybody instead of just trying to shorten your bench," he said. "We are just trying to play a team game, work on some of the details so that we can play all four lines as much as possible, and then of course your specialist teams are pretty important so we are going to work on some of that stuff as well."

Previously, the Wheatland Kings have never progressed beyond the second round of the playoff season. Two years ago, the Kings defeated Coaldale in the first round before being eliminated themselves by Okotoks in the second.

The Kings are scheduled next to square off against the High River Flyers, Jan. 24, then Sylvan Lake, Jan. 25 for a pair of away games. #7-32580 Range RR 11 Olds, AB T4H 4N4

### CONTACT

Bus: 587-796-3020 Cell: 403-415-6643 kam.jones@nobleequipment.ca Please feel free to contact me if I can assist you in any way!

Kalmegon Jones

Kameron Jones Agricultural Sales- Airdrie



# Standard Clover Farm re-opens under new management

JOHN WATSON Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Standard Clover Farm is under new management, and following a period of closure, now continues to operate within the community.

"The Standard Co-Op was formed in 1974, and it went through a time of bad management and was no longer viable, and so it dissolved in 2017," said Shelly Rasmussen, secretary and treasurer to the Broadway Group, which now collectively owns the building. "The building is right on Main Street, so people were very concerned that the building would be sold and end up being a storage unit or something like that because it is a fairly large building."

Rasmussen explained the Broadway Group got together, which consists of just under 30 shareholders, to assemble the money necessary to buy the building. The next step was to find someone to run the store.

For the last five years, a local family has run the Standard Clover Farm, though has since retired as of August 2024.

The Standard Clover Farm was closed from Sept. 1, 2024 until Jan. 10, having reopened under the proprietorship of Won Lee.

"Our family is running another store in Bassano, so it would be a really good opportunity for me to run a business by myself ... It has been really good; people are so nice," said Lee. "There is a guy named Ross (Collins); he is one of the members of the group in Standard (who owns the building), and he just came by in Bassano when I was working there and he said they were closing the store in a few months so maybe I should check it out."

Lee explained he is effectively restarting the store from scratch, as the store was completely empty when he stepped in to take over operations.

Thus far, he added, though January has been slow business-wise, the pro-



Won Lee, shown here with his mother Jamie, opened a grocery store in the Village of Standard on Jan. 10

### Photo Courtesy of Shelley Rasmussen

cess to re-establish the store has largely been smooth sailing.

"We did not have to go very long without a store. People really noticed it that we did not have a store. It is very hard. But now, the store that Won has, there is meat, produce, we have liquor and lottery, and of course, dry goods, frozen goods, a bakery, the full contingent of anything anybody could want," said Rasmussen. "(Not having a grocery store) was very hard on the community because there was nothing ... it was very quiet on main street with no store... and you would have to go drive for half an hour just to get a jug of milk."

Lee explained the store is not yet experiencing enough traffic to hire more staff, though it is something he will be looking towards later.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### **Canadians need to stick together**

### To the Editor

As we have seen with Trump's demands to get nations to jump before he had the power to direct policy, he has demonstrated his intentions.

As they say, weakness is something to exploit when you're self-serving. Do you think a guy like Kevin O'Leary has Cana-

nadian-approved, federally-funded Transmountain expansion in aiding the tripling the of oil production output as recently reported, that does not mean oil production will shut down. Also, shipping east could also continue immediately by using rail and ships. Consider this; why can't the pipeline that goes east now load ships on the west end of Lake Superior and stay within Canadian waters to deliver supply to the refineries in Ontario and beyond? Wouldn't this be a faster economical way to resolve a potential and immediate problem of production flow from the west to east while other long-term options are started?

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dian values and sovereign identity interest in mind when his Dragon's Den comments are like, 'it's all about the money?' What does that say to you?

Premier Smith, whose decision to not agree with the Team Canada approach has not only weakened Canada's negotiation, it will show that if supporting premiers want to legally override that decision, if necessary, then be ready for Smith's predictable blame game focus to start. Do you think this situation in Alberta's divide is exactly what Trump was hoping for, or do you think this will change his mind because of it?

Smith believes that building the other pipelines east and west would be the better solution. Really, it is a solution that would take a decade or more to complete. Do we have that kind of time to manage the hit to our economy? It seems like shortsighted leadership.

Thanks to the NDP supporting the Ca-

If need be, how about banning Teslas from entering Canada?

I've asked my conservative MP Martin Shields, why won't Pierre Poilievre get security clearance to allow him to see or be able to be advised firsthand on national matters that affect Canada. Also, when Canadians are being threatened with economic war, why can't he fully support a Team Canada approach when wanting to be a PM of all Canadians? All Canadians are going to have to do their part, not just some of us. Talk to your reps.

> Dennis Bigras Wheatland County

# Strathmore cosplayer featured on hit web series

#### JOHN WATSON

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Autumn Desjardins, a cosplayer from Strathmore, was recently featured on a segment of Tested, a web show hosted by Adam Savage.

Savage is best known for his previous role as a co-host on the Discovery Channel television series, MythBusters. He now hosts Tested as a platform to engage with makers of various sorts to discuss projects and innovations they are excited about.

"My boss (Ben Eadie) and I were down in California for Maker Faire and the California Maker Faire is the original and is one of the biggest ones. We were down there and while we were there we got a few tours set up," said Desjardins. "(Ben) is really well known for special effects and props and stuff like that. We ended up down at the Cave to do some video recordings and he shared my stuff with Adam and his team, and they were like, 'yes, let's have her on.'"

The episodes in question during which Desjardins is featured, discuss leather work and how it can be utilized for cosplay, and applications for conductive fabric in costume making or in special effects.

Originally filmed in October 2024, the episodes of Tested were not published online until close to the end of December 2024, and Jan. 2, respectively.

"I think the interview was like 20 minutes and it was kind of a three, two, one, countdown, go, and they just started the interview ... there was no script, we just talked," said Desjardins. "He had questions, I answered and that 20 minutes felt like

and stuff like that. We ended up down at the Cave two minutes and then we were done ... and then we just to do some video recordings and he shared my ended up chatting for a while afterwards."

Desjardins added through her experience on the show, she gained a new trust in herself and the knowledge she has accumulated as a cosplayer to be able to speak confidently and knowledgably about costume creation.

She explained her motivation and inspiration for cosplay stems from the fandoms, the stories, and a desire to see fictional characters come to life for herself.

"I do not want just a costume – I want the real thing. How do I make the real thing in front of me? A lot of the time (these characters) break the laws of physics, so you have to figure out how to break the laws of physics without actually breaking them. That is a lot of what cosplay making is," she said. "It is how do we take these things and make things that should not exist, exist and that is one of the most cool and fun things and it is wild seeing just how much that kind of stuff can really push forward engineering and creativity and how things are made. You just want to see a thing in real life that bad that you will find a way for it to happen."

County MPC approves two subdivision applications

#### JOHN WATSON

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Wheatland County Municipal Planning Commission approved two subdivision applications during the Jan. 14 meeting in council chambers.

Subdivision application SD2024-017, proposed to create two approximately 2.03 hectare parcels with a 60.58 hectare remainder.

The subject lands are located 1.6 kilometres north of the Origin Business Park, 6.7 kilometers south of the Hamlet of Lyalta, and 800 meters southeast of the Range Road 264 and Township Road 244 intersection.

Currently, the lands are designated as Agriculture General District, which has been deemed appropriate for the intended uses. The proposal is to add residential dwellings to currently undeveloped lands, which would be serviced by on-site private water and wastewater systems.

The remaining lot not indicated for residential development is developed with a farmstead and accessory buildings which are utilized for agricultural purposes.

County administration had recom-

### Strathmore Minor Ringette eyes success

**MELISSA PICHE** *Times Contributor* 

Strathmore Minor Ringette Association (SMRA) is celebrating a successful season, filled with growth, teamwork, and a strong focus on keeping kids engaged in the sport.

Martin Croft, SMRA President, shared highlights so far this season and the excitement for the upcoming Laurie Morton Ruppe Memorial Tournament. mended this application be approved subject to several conditions.

It was noted to the Municipal Planning Commission that the proposal was consistent with agricultural policies laid out in the Municipal Development Plan which aims to minimize the fragmentation and subdivision of agricultural lands, and to maximize continuous agricultural lands.

Following circulation, no objections had been raised in response to the application prior to its presentation before the Municipal Planning Commission by residents, nor by any regulatory body.

Subdivision application SD2024-018 proposed to adjust the boundaries between subject lands, which would result in one 2.03 hectare parcel, and one 62.61 hectare parcel.

The subject lands are located 13.8 kilometers east of the Town of Strathmore, 12.1 kilometers southwest of the Village of Standard, and are immediately to the southwest of the Range Road 234 and Township Road 244 intersection.

These lands are currently designated as Agricultural General District, which has been deemed appropriate for the proposed sizes and uses of the lands.

Lands designated as the proposed Lot 1 are developed with a residence and an accessory building, while Lot 2 is undeveloped and is used for agricultural purposes. No change of use or development has been proposed as part of the application.

County administration had recommended the subdivision application be approved, subject to several conditions pertaining to adherence to regulatory procedures and requirements under the Municipal Government Act.

Previously, these subject lands had been redesignated from Country Residential to Agricultural District by Bylaw 2024-36 on Dec. 3, 2024.

Following circulation, no concerns or objections were raised by external agencies, regulatory bodies, or adjacent landowners to the application.

More information regarding the applications is available online through the Municipal Planning Commission's meeting agenda for Jan. 14, as well as on the county's YouTube channel.



Both episodes of Tested are able to be viewed on the "Adam Savage's Tested" YouTube channel.



11

"It's had its ups and downs. Thankfully there's been a little more ups," said Croft of the six SMRA teams and five RISE (Rockyford, Indus, Strathmore Extreme) teams this year.

He said the goal of the association is to keep the sport competitive, while fostering a goal to keep kids in sports.

Croft said one possible reason for a lower-than-expected number of players this year could be the hockey program that has been developing over the last few years here in Strathmore.

"The good news is we've had a lot of younger sign-ups ... so the future is looking a little bit brighter now, which is good," said Croft.

There will be a Come Try Ringette event on Sunday, March 16, from 2:15 p.m. to 3:15pm at the Strathmore Family Centre.

Continued on Page 10



### February 8, 2025-7:30 pm

Adult - \$35.00

Youth - \$10.00 - 17 and under



**Upcoming Concert:** 

Steve Pineo with Horns—March 15, 2025—7:30 pm

Tickets can be purchased at the Vault Cultural Collective or online at <u>www.smoreuc.com</u>. Online purchases must be picked up at the door the night of the concert.



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Neet & Greet after the show at Mikes Bar & Grill.

# **Strathmore Minor Ringette** hosts annual tournament

#### Continued from Page 9

Croft said that with the younger age groups growing with new faces, the volunteer base has also increased.

"It's refreshing to see some new parents," said Croft. "We have some new board members that came this season. Fresh ideas and some eagerness to that as well."

As many people know, the Rockyford rink unfortunately had an unforeseen incident related to the heating system

which caused many local groups to have to find ice elsewhere. Luckily the rink wasn't closed for long and is back up and running.

"We did lose some ice this year, which we are hoping to get back – we lost some ice (time) in Rockyford," he said. "We're ... working with

the other associations and the other arenas (so) we've been able to supplement our teams to make sure everybody has the same amount of ice that we typically have."

Croft said one thing he is extremely pleased with is the association's willingness to listen to its members at open house meetings.

"I think it was good for the members, and it was good for us (the SMRA board) to try and listen and hear what everybody thinks and try to make the best decisions that we can for everyone," said Croft.

This year the association was fortu-

### 

<u>Obituary</u>



SCHMIDT, Margaret R. (nee Salkeld) Margaret R. Schmidt (nee Salkeld)

passed away January 10, 2025 in her home at Chancellor, AB at the remarkable age of 102.

She was a much-loved member of the Chancellor/ Standard community for over fifty years. Margaret was born July 30, 1922 in the farming com-

munity of Lucknow, ON where she attended school. Margaret attended the University of Toronto where she became an Occupational Therapist, then furthered her education to become a teacher. She taught school in many places: in rural Ontario, London, England, the Yukon, on Vancouver Island and in Kimberly, BC. She also taught in Alberta for the Calgary Board of Education, Rockyview School Division, and Golden Hills School Division.

Margaret was predeceased by her husband John T. Schmidt, his sons John Jr. and Thomas R., by her parents Thomas and Amy, a brother Laurence and two sisters Helen and Mary all of Ontario. She is fondly remembered by her three nieces Linda, Lorraine, and Lorna and nephew Blaine and his mother Meg, and their families, and a god-daughter Mary. Margaret also enjoyed the affection of John's family; son Bill, daughter lnez and step daughters and brother-in-law Diana, Diane and Joe and their families. Margaret was grateful for her close neighbours and friends, and will be greatly missed by all of them. Margaret loved to travel and enjoyed many fascinating trips with her husband John, whose job at the Calgary Herald took him to many countries. She was also an avid gardener and reader as well as an excellent seamstress and enjoyed cooking and trying out new recipes when company came to call. Following Margaret's wishes, her cremation has taken place and her internment will be in the Spring 2025 in Lucknow, ON. A celebration of Margaret's life will be held on Saturday April 26, 2025 at 2:00 PM at the Standard Seniors Centre. If you wish, memorial donations in Margaret's name can be made to the Wheatland & Area Hospice Society. (www.wheatlandhospice.ca)

nate enough to be able to buy full goalie gear for three separate teams including pads, gloves and helmets.

"For the first time since I've been on the board, we've bought new goalie equipment for our younger goalies to try to entice them," he said.

### **UPCOMING TOURNAMENT**

SMRA will host the highly-anticipated Laurie Morton Ruppe Memorial Tournament with games both here in Stra-

thmore and Rockyford from Jan. 24-26. This annual event honours the legacy of Laurie Morton Ruppe and her contributions to the ringette community. The tournament will be hosting an Open A division which is sure to be a crowd pleaser.

The tournament will feature exciting games,

family-friendly activities, and fundraising opportunities, including 50/50 draws, silent auction tables, and other fun prizes. Croft encouraged everyone to attend.

Croft wants to offer an open invitation to the community to come and watch some top-level ringette while supporting the community. He said that the teams can't wait to showcase their talent and dedication.

As SMRA wraps up another memorable season, their focus remains on fostering a love for the sport and creating opportunities for youth to grow both on and off the ice.

# TIMES CLASSINEDS

# <u>Obituary</u>



Rose Marie (nee Conkin) September 20, 1937 - January 17, 2025 Our wonderful and beloved Rose passed away peace-

fully with her husband of almost 66 years, Nickolas by her side on January 17, 2025. Incredibly kind. compassionate, and strong, Rose was fiercely devoted to her family and was always there for so many in good times and bad. She is survived by her husband Nick, brother Paul Conkin, daughter Shelly, son Jarret (Stephanie) and her cherished granddaughters Ava and Anastasia. Rose is also remembered by her dear friend Maxine, and countless other relatives and friends. We will remember her with much love and jov.

Rose was predeceased by her parents Nick and Mary, sisters Pauline and Connie, brother Richard, and numerous family and friends who were dear to her and were greatly missed.

Rose was born in Calgary, September 20, 1937, and grew up by the corner of the Bow River in what is now part of Shouldice Park but was then known as Critchley. "Rosie" as she was called in her youth, grew up surrounded by cousins, relatives and friends and although they did not have much money, they had a wealth of love and stories.

Rose and Nick Makrugin (then Walyuchow) were married on April 3, 1959, and had an incredible life together. They started out as the glamorous, cool couple, before finally being slowed down by the birth of Shelly and Jarret. Rose spent many years at AGT as an operator and then at the Phone Centre in Market Mall. After 26 years in the community of Brentwood, they moved to Strathmore where they made many new friends and were active members of the community and local Legion.

Rose loved and enjoyed music, travel, gatherings, barbecues and dinners with friends and family. She was an exceptional seamstress, sewing outfits and numerous Halloween costumes for her family. Rose was especially thrilled when her granddaughters were born and spent as much time with them as she could, never missing an event and always baking treats to share with them.

Rose struggled the last number of years with Alzheimer's and although it wasn't easy was able to remain at home up until last year. We were blessed that she still retained the core of herself through it all and always brightened up for us with a smile and a brave face, hugs and "I love you's".

A reception for friends and family to gather and celebrate Rose will be held on Friday, January 24, 2025, between 4:00 - 7:00 p.m. at Wheatland Funeral Home (202 Lakeside Blvd. Strathmore). In lieu of flowers please make a donation directly to an Alzheimer's Charity, an Animal Shelter, or another charity close to your heart.

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

> Wheatland Funeral Home Strathmore, AB 403-934-4404

### **COMING EVENT**

FIREARMS WANTED FOR OUR 2025 AUCTION PROGRAM: Rifles, Shotguns, Handguns, Antiques, Militaria, Collections, Estates, Single Items. For Auction, or Possible Purchase: Toll-Free 1-800-694-2609. Email Us at sales@ switzersauction.com or Visit Us @ www.switzersauction.

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Full more information and description of the Member-at-Lodge position see our web site at www.wheatland housing.com.

Deadline for applications is February 3, 2025

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John Mark Kettenbach, 67, of Rockyford, Alberta passed away surrounded by family on January 17, 2025, in Cal-

gary. Alberta Mark was born on August 28, 1957, to Frank and Mary Kettenbach and was the 4th of 7 kids. He grew up in Rockyford, AB and eventually settled within a mile of the home farm to raise his own family. Mark had a love of cars, a good hot tub and farming, but his greatest love was his family. He will be dearly missed by all who knew him.

Mark is survived by his wife of 42 years, Ardis, his children Brett Kettenbach (Myranda) of Rockyford and Kristina Moore (Cale) of Calgary, and granddaughters, Alice, Eliza, Hattie and Lexi. He is also survived by his mother Mary Kettenbach, brothers Will (Teri), Ed (Joanne) and Ray (Nancy) and sisters MaryAnn and Amy (Ralph - deceased), as well as many nieces and nephews. He is predeceased by his father Frank Kettenbach and brother Fred.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Sunday, January 26, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. at the Rockyford Community Centre

Wheatland Funeral Home Strathmore, AB 403-934-4404

In lieu of flowers the family has requested donations be made to the Rockyford Lions Club.

> Wheatland Funeral Home Strathmore, AB 403-934-4404



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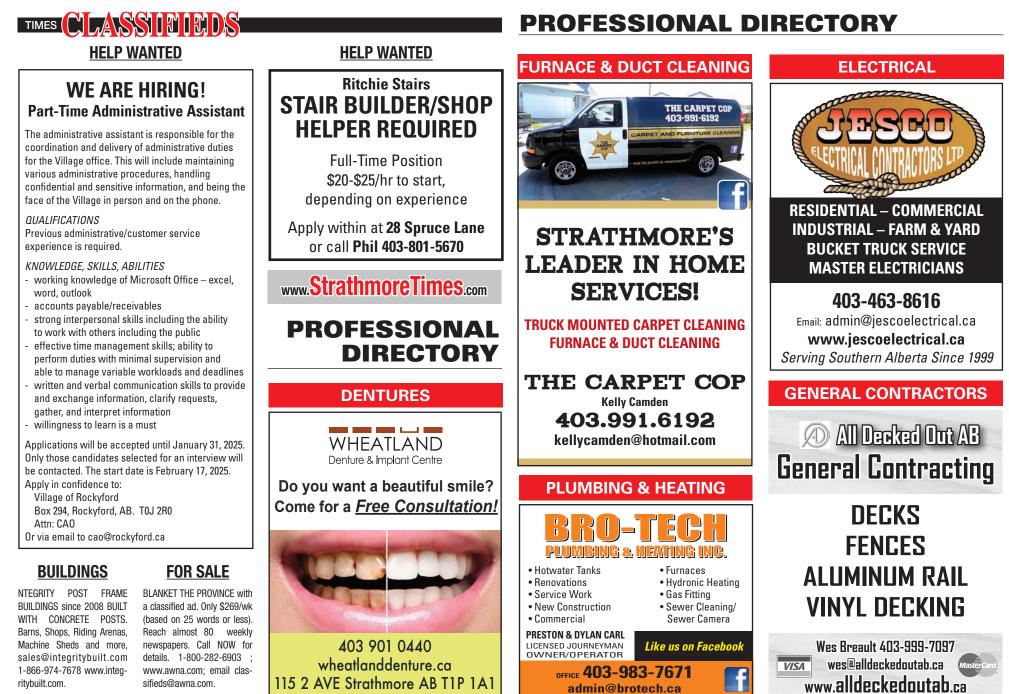




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Every Canadian citizen has the right to vote. It is how Canadians choose which leaders represent them. Your community is shaped by the outcome of an election. When you take part in an election and express your view, you make democracy work.

Every four years Strathmore holds a Municipal Election where residents elect a Mayor and six Councillors. In Strathmore, Council members are elected atlarge, which means the Mayor and Councillors represent the entire population. Strathmore does not have wards, voters in the town may choose up to six candidates for Council, and one candidate for Mayor.

The next general election will be Monday, October 20, 2025.

- Nomination Period: January 1, 2025 September 22, 2025
- Nomination Day Deadline: September 22, 2025, at 12:00 p.m.
- Election Day: October 20, 2025, polls open at 10:00 a.m. and close at 8:00 p.m.

For more information please visit our website, Strathmore.ca/Election.

### Have you seen our new map yet?

## **Be someone's Snow Angel.**

While the winter season makes for a beautiful and icy landscape, it also comes with its icy challenges. Navigating icy sidewalks can be daunting, especially for those who face mobility limitations or health concerns. Shoveling those same sidewalks is an even more daunting challenge. This is where the Strathmore Snow Angels Program comes in. Here's how it works:

- Find a snow angel sign. They can usually be sign in the front yard or window.
- Be a Snow Angel: Spread your snowy wings and help out your neighbour by clearing their sidewalk, driveways, and paths.

Need the Snow Angels help? Call FCSS at **403-934-9090** to request a sign or visit the Strathmore Municipal Building. Looking to see who does need help? Visit **Strathmore.ca/SnowAngels** to see the NEW snow angels map.

### **Upcoming Council Meetings**

 January 22, 2025 | 6 p.m.
 Reg

 February 5, 2025 | 6 p.m.
 Reg

 February 12, 2025 | 6 p.m.
 Cor

🛐 Strathmore

Regular Meeting of Council Regular Meeting of Council 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.

# License your pet

Call **(403) 934-3133** or visit the Strathmore Municipal Building to license your pet today.

# Collection schedule for Nov-Apr. Seasonal waste collection.

From November 1st to April 30th, green cart collection is reduced to bi-weekly. This collection change is due to a lower need from less yard waste, as you likely won't be raking your lawn or pulling weeds in a blizzard. There's a couple things you can do during the winter months to make collection easier.

- Layer organics in the green cart with paper products (newspaper, food boxes, paper towels, etc) to mitigate stuck material.
- Cleaning snow from around the carts and at collection location.
- Clearing cart lids of snow and ice so the lid opens during collection.

For questions about collection, visit our website **Strathmore. ca/wastecollection** or email **infrastructure@strathmore.ca**.

**HEART MONTH** 

February is Heart Month - a time to

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January							M	1arc	h				
Su	Мо	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Мо	Tu	We	Th	Fr	S
29	30	31	1	2	3	4	26	27	28	29	30	31	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	
26	27	28	29	30	31	1	23	24	25	28	27	28	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	30	31	1	2	3	4	
		Fel	orur	ary						Apri			
Su	Мо	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Мо	Tu	We	Th	Fr	
26	27	28	29	30	31	1	30	31	1	2	3	4	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	
23	24	25	28	27	28	1	27	28	29	30	1	2	
~	3	4	5	6	7	8	4	5	6	7	8	9	
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# It's hy-drant, not hide-drant

Help keep fire hydrants clear of snow.



Adopt a hydrant at Strathmore.ca/Adopt-A-Hydrant

Strathmore Motor Product Sports Centre. PD Day/School Closure Camps.

Camps.

bring attention to the importance of cardiovascular health, and what we can do to reduce our risk of cardiovascular disease. 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 changes, but there are plenty of ways to get get active with Strathmore's Recreation Team.



Are you looking for activities to keep your kids busy while they have days off from school? We've got you covered, Strathmore Motor Products Sports Centre offers day camps for PD/School Closure days.

Course ID	Dates	Days	Time	Cost
33047	Jan 31, 2025	F	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	\$47.50
33049	Mar 14, 2025	F	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	\$47.50
33050	Apr 04, 2025	F	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	\$47.50
33052	May 02, 2025	F	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	\$47.50
33053	May 16, 2025	F	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	\$47.50
33054	Jun 13, 2025	F	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	\$47.50

### Winter Break Camp

Course ID	Dates	Days	Days Time			
33048	Feb 18 - 21, 2025	T - F	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	\$148		

### Spring Break Camp

Course ID	Dates	Days	Time	Cost
33051	Apr 22 - 25, 2025	T - F	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	\$148

# Winter fitness programs

Learn more at Strathmore.ca/Recreation