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VOLUME 16 ISSUE 4

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Sharks growing

RCMP to speed up court dates

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Many RCMP detachments across Alberta, Strathmore's included, are moving to a new pre-charge approval process with Alberta Crown Prosecution Services.

This change is meant to help reduce delays in bringing individuals to trial. As it currently stands, more than half of detachments across the province have been phased into this new process. The goal for the RCMP is to see 100 per cent compliance by the end of spring this year.

One of the changes being implemented due to the new process is individuals who have been arrested, as well as their charges will no longer be public information, and will only be provided if charges are ultimately laid.

Language used by the RCMP to inform news organizations as well as the public will shift to that such as "A suspect has been arrested in relation to X incident and charges are pending Crown approval. An update is anticipated once charges are laid."

It will be a minor change to their process.

"It is a slight change in the way that we have been doing business with sending people to court. Essentially with criminal matters, we now do our investigation, we send it to a crown officer who will then review everything, and if there is extra investigation they want us to do prior to information or the charges being sworn, they will indicate that, they will decline to proceed with charges, or they will say everything is ready and it will move forward," said Sgt. Jay Salmon, speaking on behalf of Strathmore RCMP. "For us, it is just an extra step and it will help the crown filter out matters that are best dealt with at court, or if they feel there is insufficient evidence to secure a conviction, they can then either indicate further investigation to be done or the file will not proceed any further."

Continued on Page 4

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Provincial hosts

STRATHMORE TIMES

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Welcome back!

Wheatland Kings defenceman Tegan Skehar celebrates his first period goal versus the Coaldale Copperheads on Jan. 21 at the Strathmore Family Centre. Skehar, who was hurt in the first game of the season, returned from the injured list to provide a spark for the Kings, who are preparing for the Heritage Junior League post season. See Page 2 for more coverage.

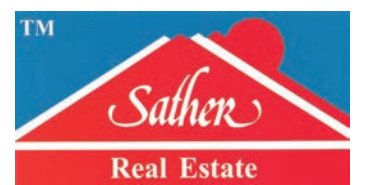
Joe Lepage Photo



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The Wheatland Kings split a pair of weekend home games when they hosted the Medicine Hat Cubs and the Coaldale Copperheads Jan. 20-21 at the Strathmore Family Centre. The local Junior B team needed a shootout to sneak past the Cubs, before falling 7-2 the following day to Coaldale. The Kings will now travel to High River on Jan. 26 before their next home game on Feb. 3 (8 p.m.) when they play host to the Flyers.

Joe Lepage Photos

Coffee Meet & Greet
Friday, January 26
 10am - 11:30 am
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 Strathmore, AB T1P1K1
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Wheatland Kings struggling to field players as playoffs loom

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Wheatland Kings split a pair of weekend games, registering their first win of the new year against Medicine Hat, 3-2, followed by a loss to Coaldale 7-2 on Jan. 20-21 respectively.

“It was a pretty good game going into the third period, it was 2-2 ... and then in the third period we got some penalties, they had two or three power play goals,” said Doug Raycroft, head coach for the Wheatland Kings, speaking to the game against Coaldale. “Obviously, they had five unanswered goals ... it was definitely one of those periods where it kind of fell apart, which is unfortunate. We have not had many games like that this year, so it was definitely a little bit frustrating.”

Raycroft added his team has been better as of late for picking up its pace and playing the full 60 minutes, as he had previously been wanting. The problems the Kings are facing now are the significant lack of their players who are able to hit the ice.

Four of the Kings players are currently suspended, including Chase Tweit, O’Shea Red Crow, Eric Castro, and Josh Alberda. Approximately five players are also out due to injuries.

“It is getting hard to even field the team. I think in the last four weekends, we have had to bring affiliates up or play with three lines or less,” said

Raycroft. “The only thing that was different this week is we did have most of our defensemen back, which was sure nice, but we are missing a lot of forwards and guys who can score and we have had some trouble scoring lately.”

Raycroft explained Tegan Skehar has finally returned to playing with the Kings after injuring his Achilles tendon in the first game of the season.

Philip Raycroft also returned to the ice after being out for approximately a month. He was also absent from the ice in the early season, not playing until November due to recovering from surgery.

The Wheatland Kings have also been missing Brandon McGillivray and Kage Yellowfly, who are some of their stronger offensive players.

Raycroft explained the plan going forward is for the Kings to continue trying to hold their own and secure a playoff spot while they wait for their full roster to return to the ice.

“We have been battling hard and Coaldale is a pretty good team, so unfortunately if you give them some opportunities, things can happen like that,” said Raycroft. “We are really competitive with every team in the league and even though we are in fifth spot in the south, it is a pretty tight south division.”

The next game, scheduled for Jan. 26, will be against the High River Flyers at the Bob Snodgrass Recreation Complex.

HOW CAN YOUR MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT HELP?

Your Member of Parliament, **Martin Shields** and his staff are here to assist you with questions that you have regarding any programs or services from the Government of Canada. The local office is here to guide anyone who may have questions relating to:

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- Canada Pension Plan
- Disability Pension Plan
- Veterans Affairs
- Old Age Security
- Indigenous Programs
- Employment Insurance
- Passports
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Celebratory Greetings for milestone birthdays and anniversaries are available from Mr. Martin Shields.

We always look forward to hearing from you. If you are experiencing delays or have concerns with an existing application from the programs listed above, please get in touch with the office either by phone, through email, or a letter to the office postage-free.



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RCMP to host open house at local McDonald's

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The RCMP are hiring, and an open house is being hosted in Strathmore at the McDonald's for potential applicants to drop in and speak with local officers about the opportunity.

Taking place Feb. 3 from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m., the coffee with a recruiter event will be a very casual setting as part of a large recruiting push across the province.

"We will have one of our recruiting officers there. Members from our local detachment will pop in and out depending on calls for service," said Sgt. Jay Salmon, speaking on behalf of the Strathmore RCMP. "If anyone is interested, they can come in, they can speak with a regular member from the recruiting branch, and if one of the local members is available, they can speak with them. It is a good opportunity for people to just ask any kind of questions about the job, good and bad and get answers from guys who are living it."

Salmon added it is very much the intention to create a casual, more approachable setting for the public and potential applicants to drop in and learn about the job.

As opposed to being set up at a formal job fair, this creates more of an opportunity to ask more candid questions and have direct, impactful conversations about the job opportunities as opposed

to being in a loud environment with less time at a booth, and more people vying for jobhunters' attention.

Resumes and applications will not be collected at the event directly. Instead, those who are interested in applying will be directed to where they may be able to submit an application and begin the hiring process.

"They will have pamphlets, we have recruiting cards with QR codes on them that will take people to the website, we will have lots of answers about the process and that kind of information there," said Salmon. "It is across the province. During COVID-19, our recruiting numbers were very low, and now we are ramping up to try to catch up."

Successful applicants are recruited to the Alberta RCMP and may be posted anywhere in the province, rather than the Strathmore detachment specifically hiring people for a guaranteed local position.

Salmon described that the RCMP look for all sorts of different kinds of people to take on as applicants. Since a great deal of the job requires interacting with the public, there is a need to have a diverse pool of people as members of the RCMP.

"We are looking for all different kinds of people because we deal with all different kinds of people. I do not think there is a cookie cutter, 'you must be like this,'" said Salmon. "I have worked with

guys who played video games professionally, I have worked with guys who played in the WHL, who were in the army, I have worked with guys who were drywallers before. We deal with everybody in the public, and so we need a wide cross section of members so that we have a representation of the communities that we serve."

More information regarding a potential career with the RCMP is available online (rcmpcareers.ca).

Community Futures Wild Rose Celebrates 35 years of service

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Community Futures Wild Rose has announced their 35th anniversary and is celebrating their dedication and service to the local communities they have served throughout their tenure.

These communities include Wheatland County, Strathmore, Kneehill County, parts of Rocky View County, the City of Chestermere, Three Hills, and Bassano, as well as the villages of Acme, Beiseker, Carbon, Hussar, Irricana, Linden, Standard, and Trochu.

First established in 1989, Community Futures described themselves in a release as a cornerstone for economic development within the service region.

Similarly, Community Futures has released that over the lifetime of the organization, they have facilitated over \$36 million in loans and investments, benefiting 1,006 local businesses. Community Futures Wild Rose itself is a non-profit organization.

This financial support has not only fueled the growth of these businesses, but also played a role in their establishment and expansion. Community Futures credits itself with being involved in the creation of 7,586 jobs.

"Our 35-year journey is filled with countless success stories of local businesses flourishing with our support," said Amber Link, who serves as board chair for Community Futures Wild Rose in a release. "As we celebrate this milestone, we reaffirm our commitment to fostering entrepreneurship and driving economic growth in our region."

In addition to its direct investments, Community Futures Wild Rose has leveraged over \$52 million in funding for the region, specifically for the purposes of economic growth and development.

The branch operating in and around Wheatland County is one of 268 offices throughout the country, and represents part of Canada's largest economic development movement.

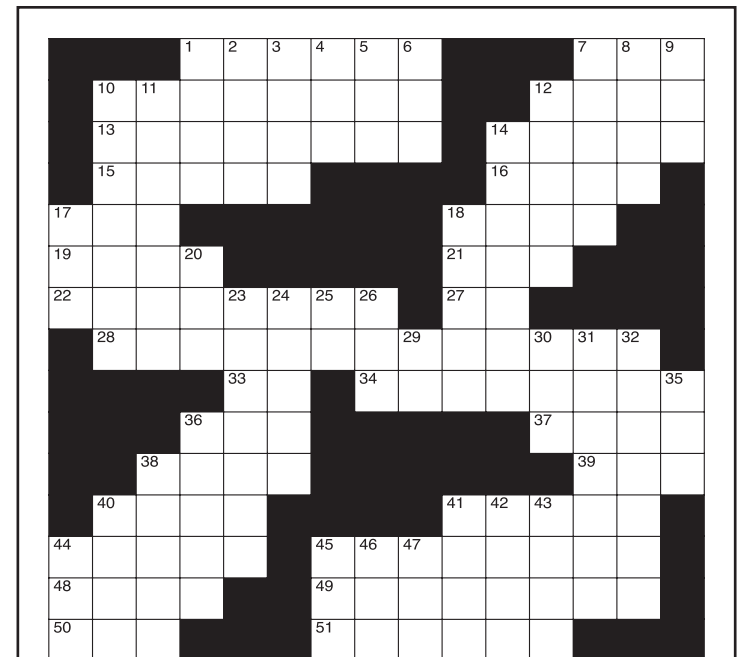
Community Futures Wild Rose is operated by a volunteer board of directors, largely consisting of local entrepreneurs and business owners. It actively works to foster competitiveness within its operational region.

The organization's approach to supporting local businesses includes offering loans to both new and existing small businesses as well as social enterprises, providing free business information and coaching, delivering entrepreneurial training, supporting community economic development projects, and assisting with strategic planning – primarily for non-profit organizations.

Via their release, Community Futures Wild Rose stated they take pride in its "myriad success stories, underscoring the flourishing small businesses that owe their existence to the loans and business coaching provided by the organization."

They added the organization looks forward to continuing its mission of supporting local businesses and promoting economic growth within its local service region.

Community Futures Wild Rose did not respond to requests for comment beyond what was available for quotation via their distributed release.



CLUES ACROSS

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| 1. Winged nut | 34. Rusk or cracker |
| 7. ___ Humbug! | 36. Returned material authorization (abbr.) |
| 10. One who sets apart | 37. Scottish or Irish Gaelic language |
| 12. Circle above a saint's head | 38. Eat |
| 13. Unpleasantly loud and harsh | 39. Marxist economics theory (abbr.) |
| 14. Expressed pleasure | 40. Ceases to exist |
| 15. Feminine given name | 41. Male Arabic name |
| 16. Company of badgers | 44. Series of ridges on an organ wall |
| 17. Popular Dodge pickup truck | 45. Places where bees are kept |
| 18. Witty sayings | 48. One-time Yankees sensation Kevin |
| 19. Leader | 49. Church office |
| 21. Autonomic nervous system | 50. Single lens reflex |
| 22. Premolar | 51. Pieces of fibrous tissue |
| 27. Atomic #28 | |
| 28. Holiday decorative item | |
| 33. Exclamation of surprise | |

CLUES DOWN

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| 1. Classify | 24. Exclamation of disgust |
| 2. Dismounted | 25. Stephen King novel |
| 3. Produced | 26. Without armies |
| 4. Consumed | 29. Expression of sympathy |
| 5. Director Howard | 30. Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.) |
| 6. The products of human creativity | 31. Previously |
| 7. Thai monetary units | 32. Illegal drug |
| 8. Away from wind | 35. Kiloelectronvolt |
| 9. Builder's trough | 36. Large, flightless birds |
| 10. Relating to Islam | 38. For smoking |
| 11. It can sometimes ache | 40. Binary |
| 12. Small quantities (Scot.) | 41. Competition |
| 14. Poisonous plant | 42. Mark resembling an arrow |
| 17. Laugh at | 43. Containers |
| 18. Vogul | 44. Root mean square (abbr.) |
| 20. C. European river | 45. Commercials |
| 23. Type of cat | 46. I.M. ___, architect |
| | 47. 007's creator |

STRATHMORE TIMES

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

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We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada through the Local Journalism Initiative.

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Major droughts a concern

CHANTELLE DE JONGE
Chestermere-Strathmore MLA

In the past three years we have witnessed droughts and water shortages in various parts of Alberta. Compounding this challenge, a global phenomenon known as El Niño is ushering in a warm and dry winter across Canada, heightening the potential for continued drought conditions this year.



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In response to these pressing circumstances, our United Conservative government is taking proactive measures to ensure agriculture producers can meet their needs and continue contributing to the growth and diversification of our economy.

Alberta's government recently awarded a contract to WaterSMART Solutions to enhance drought modelling and help us maximize our province's water supply while mitigating the risk of a severe drought in 2024. Alberta's government is closely monitoring snowpack, rainfall, river levels, and water use throughout the province to develop early warning capacity and understand how much water will be available this year. Using this data, WaterSMART will help the province conduct advanced modelling and explore ways to make the best use of Alberta's water.

Vital grants to make the province more naturally drought resilient are being provided by our government this year. A total of \$3.5 million will be provided to fund eight projects in communities across the province through the Watershed Resiliency and Restoration Program. These projects will help restore riverbanks and watersheds, stabilize stream banks, and improve natural drainage.

Additionally, our government is meeting with water license holders, major water users, municipalities, farmers, busi-

nesses, and other partners to develop water conservation plans and water sharing agreements. We will continue to work to help conserve and manage water now, so that we can be prepared for uncertain conditions in the future.

Our province has navigated many droughts in the past. We have a long, proud history of coming together during tough times and we will get through this like we always do - by working together.

As mentioned last week I will be hosting a series of Coffee Meet & Greets across our constituency in the coming weeks. This Friday, Jan. 26, I will be at Rocky's Bakery in Strathmore, located on 126 2nd Ave, from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. I look forward to seeing you for a coffee and chat!

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

Former Chief Financial Officer charged

ALBERTA RCMP

The RCMP's Provincial Financial Crime Team has charged a Strathmore resident with seven criminal offences relating to fraud and making false entries.

Between May 2010 and July 2017, the accused is alleged to have misappropriated more than \$6 million in unauthorized wire transfers, payments and bonus cheques to himself while working as the controller and later as the Chief Financial Officer for Thompson Bros. (Constr.) LP.

On Jan. 17, Paul Michael Sturt, 49, a resident of Strathmore, was arrested and charged with: fraud over \$5,000 contrary to

section 380(1)(a) of the Criminal Code (x6); and making false entries contrary to section 397(1) of the Criminal Code.

Sturt is scheduled to appear in Stony Plain Provincial Court on Feb. 14.

"An intensive investigation uncovered a complex fraud which caused significant financial harm to a company who employs more than 1,000 individuals and, by extension, threatened the economic integrity of Alberta's construction industry," said Sgt. John Lamming, Provincial Financial Crime Team. "The RCMP remains committed to ensuring the diligent investigation of these crimes and the mitigation of their impact to the financial security of Canadians."

The Provincial Financial Crime Team is a specialized unit under the RCMP Federal Policing program that conducts investigations relating to multi-jurisdictional serious fraud, investment scams and corruption.

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Thought for the Week
~
Losing your reason to live is far worse than losing your capacity to do so.

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RCMP moving to pre-charge approval system

Continued from Page 1

Salmon added the change is intended to help make the court system more efficient. Under the old system, the first time a Crown prosecutor saw an accused person's file was at their first appearance.

This new system will have Crown prosecutors viewing documents and assessing the charges before cases are brought before the courts.

"The potential is there for cases to move through more quickly because they have already been reviewed once, the Crown does not need to look at it again, so they know if it is to the point of being on the docket and information is sworn, they know it is a viable charge," said Salmon.

This change is new for the Strathmore RCMP Detachment, but has been in the process of implementation across the province for more than a year.

Silver Sharks keep growing

MELISSA PICHE
Times Contributor

2024 is looking like a monumental year for the Strathmore Silver Sharks.

With a new president to the association, Karl Dean, some fresh ideas with hopes of growing the club to its pre-COVID19 numbers are on the horizon.

Dean took on the role as president in October although his two daughters have been a part of the club for a number of years.

"I work with a great team – the other board of directors are invaluable," he said. "The club runs quite a few age groups and the goal here was to sort of develop into the next level, to allow them to compete on a much bigger scale."

Dean explains that along with this bigger picture comes implementing new programs to not only improve swimmer performance, but also to support them mentally.

Dare to Care is a bully prevention in sports program that the Silver Sharks will host for all its members.

"It teaches the kids the right way to act in sport," said Dean.

He said that many youth programs have antibully programs already in place and make it mandatory. He is excited to be able to offer this to all the swimmers, parents, board members and coaches.

There is an in-person workshop where the Dare to Care coordinators come out to Strathmore to host the event.

Other programs that will be offered this season that are new to the club will be nutrition workshops and advanced swim technique clinics with Todd Melton (Global Swim Coach for Olympian Finlay Knox) and SwimX Community.

The association is also bringing in a new and revamped logo to the club – it's a bit more simplistic in its design and it will be showcased in the new online store.

"Swimming, I find, is fairly individual driven," said Dean. "It's so much easier to perform better when you have a group backing you. To have that togetherness is really helpful for the kids to perform better and makes it easier for them to swim harder."

Coaches make all the difference in team sports. To have a solid coaching staff is something the Silver Sharks take great pride in.

"We have some amazing coaches who each bring something unique to the club," said Dean. "Our head coach Lexi Sidorenko was a past swimmer with the Strathmore Silver Sharks and is going on her sixth year as a coach with the team. We have a registered



dietitian and a professional kinesiologist as a coach as well."

The club had a very successful swim meet in December at the University of Calgary Swim Club (UCSC) Holiday Classic where they took home 22 ribbons and numerous medals.

"It was a fantastic meet; there were a lot of our smaller kids," said Dean.

The club is home to over 100 swimmers, welcoming any newcomers to

the group with open arms. The club runs from October until June where they practice 2-5 times a week out of the Strathmore Aquatic Centre.

The club is actively seeking volunteers from the Strathmore community. If anyone is interested in a volunteer opportunity with the Silver Sharks, they are encouraged to contact Dean via email (president@strathmoresilversharks.ca).

Swimmers from the Strathmore Silver Sharks participate in multiple weekly swimming practices and swim meets over the course of the season.

Photos Courtesy of the Strathmore Silver Sharks Swim Club

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YOUR WEEKLY HEALTH ADVICE
Gord Morck Pharmacist
Capsule Comments

Natural products sometime hit the news especially when there is a promise of weight-loss or diabetes associated with it. *Berberine* is one such product. There is some evidence from a few small studies saying it can reduce blood glucose and reduce weight. *Berberine* has some side gastrointestinal side effects like abdominal pain and nausea, vomiting and diarrhea. Also it is also unsafe in women who are pregnant or breastfeeding. Caution must also be used in patients who are already taking medication for type 2 diabetes. Check with your doctor first.

A CT scan examination of the lungs of tobacco-only smokers and cannabis smokers and non-smokers showed greater inflammatory changes and higher rates of emphysema in cannabis smokers. It is thought that cannabis smokers keep the smoke in their lungs longer to get the maximum absorption of the drug resulting in damage to both small and large lung airways.

Did you know the Band-Aid brand of adhesive dressings goes back to 1920 when the wife of an employee of Johnson & Johnson, cut herself often so her husband cut a piece of tape about 4 inches long and stuck a piece of gauze on it and the first Band-Aid was born. The idea was so successful, he became vice-president of the company until retirement.

Cancer is preventable. Tobacco causes 25-30% of cancers. Another 30-35% are linked to diet. So stopping smoking and eating more fruits and vegetables and drinking less alcohol will cut out half of the causes of cancer. Not easy to do but now is a great time to begin.

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Upcoming Meetings

Council and committee meetings will now be open to the public and via teleconference.

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

- February 6: Council Meeting**
- February 13: Municipal Planning Commission**
- February 13: Public Presentation Committee**
- February 13: Committee of the Whole**

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

WHEATLAND COUNTY INVITES APPLICATIONS FOR 2024 COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT FUNDING

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

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

How to Apply:

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

Deadline:

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

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

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

Public Hearings

Wheatland County Council Chambers February 6th, 2024 at 9 a.m.

Wheatland County will consider the following applications for Public Hearing at the regular Council meeting on Tuesday, February 6th, 2024.

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

Bylaw #: 2023-24

Legal Description: County-Wide – Land Use Bylaw Textual Amendment
Proposal: To amend the Land Use Bylaw to add 'Agricultural Operations' as a permitted use in the Hamlet Residential (HRG) District, and to update Section 4.2 Development Permits Not Required to support this addition.

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.

Subdivision and Development Appeal Board Call for Members

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

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

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

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

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

If you require additional information, please contact the Wheatland County Subdivision and Development Appeal Board Clerk, Michelle Van Haarlem, at (403) 361-2000.

Please forward letters of interest to sdab@wheatlandcounty.ca.

Application Deadline: February 1, 2024

Careers with Wheatland County

Available opportunities include:

- **Automotive Technician**
Closes February 2, 2024



Visit our website for more information and APPLY TODAY!

wheatlandcounty.ca/careers/

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Office Hours: Mon-Fri 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.





Braves on a roll

The Wheatland Braves are riding a three-game winning streak after a 6-3 win over the Red Deer Wesco on Jan. 21 at the Strathmore Family Centre. The local U13AA team will host the Bow Valley Timberwolves on Feb. 2 in Chestermere before embarking on a three-game road trip.

Joe Lepage Photos



The Wheatland Raiders, who knocked off the Okotoks Oilers 7-6 on Jan. 19 at the Strathmore Family Centre, will host the U16AA Provincial Championship later in March. The Raiders, who also defeated the West Central Tigers 5-1 on the road on Jan. 20, will host the Lethbridge Hurricanes on Jan. 26 (7:30 p.m.) in the Hussar Arena.

Joe Lepage Photos

Raiders to host provincials

MELISSA PICHE
Times Contributor

The Wheatland Raiders will host the 2024 Hockey Alberta U16AA provincial championship March 21-24.

The Raiders, consisting of players from Strathmore, Chestermere, Siksika, Langdon and Drumheller, play in the South Central Alberta Hockey League.

“They’re doing pretty good, running just a little bit over .500 on (the season),” said Derek Hachey, the Raiders social media coordinator and videographer. “It’s a really competitive league ... it’s a lot of great competition. We seem to be improving really well there.”

There is also a real economic boost to the community.

“Strathmore’s population could bubble up for the weekend,” said Hachey, adding that the Gold Arena at the Strathmore Family Centre is well equipped to accommodate the event. “Everybody is welcome to come in. There will be ticket packages. You can buy a weekend pass or just come in to watch a game. There’s going to be a lot of hoc-

key packed into that weekend – a lot of action going on.”

There will be many great things happening at the rink besides the great hockey such as draws and raffle baskets.

“There’s a lot of excitement – the parents are pumped up. We’ve already got our organizing committee fired up here and everybody’s looking forward to play their part,” he said. “We made the announcement to the whole team at our Christmas party before the holidays and everybody was just so excited. It was awesome.”

Game packages haven’t been finalized; however, people are encouraged to check out the Raiders Instagram (@wheatlandraidersu16aa) for up-to-date information regarding all tournament-related information.

The Raiders are actively seeking sponsorship for the tournament with different packages available including advertising and passes to the games. Anyone who would like to sponsor or receive a sponsorship letter is encouraged to contact Hachey at u16aa2024provincials@gmail.com or 587-432-0899.

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Strathmore Mayor volunteering at Sports Centre

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Town of Strathmore Mayor, Pat Fule, has begun volunteering at the Strathmore Motor Products Sports Centre to help coach sports programs for young kids.

Fule is coaching two sports programs, both taking place once a week over eight weeks, in 45-minute time blocks. The first is for two- and three-year-olds, and the second is for four- and five-year-olds.

"My wife and I ran our Jets sports program for about 25 years, and then I stopped when I became mayor, but I just thought I have some free time as a part-time mayor that I could get involved in coaching again," said Fule. "I contacted some people within the town and I offered some volunteer time to help on Sunday mornings. I have got the two- and three-year-olds at 10 a.m. and then the four- and five-year-olds at 11 a.m."

The programs are going to consist of different sports each week, such as soccer and basketball. The kids will mostly be doing drills to focus on very basic skills such as dribbling, passing, kicking, throwing, and so on.

Fule added the programs are an excellent way for kids to be active while also learning physical skills, and socia-

lizing with other little kids their ages.

"I figured I have some free time, and I have some knowledge and some experience in running these kinds of sports programs, and I was watching my grandkids in the program anyway, so I thought if I am there watching, why not just get involved and help coach," he said. "It is a chance for kids to start learning some skills at a pretty basic, beginner level, get used to the idea of trying to learn the proper way to do things in a simple way, but it is also socializing and learning routines and lining up at times and following directions."

The programs aim to get kids familiar with movement, socializing, following directions, and give them some skills they can take to pre-school, kindergarten, or grade one physical education classes.

Parents who are interested in the programs will have to register online, and are able to do so through the Town of Strathmore website. Currently, Fule said there are roughly 18 kids enrolled in the two- and three-year-old group, and roughly 11 in the four- and five-year-old group.

"I like to joke with the parents that my goal is to get their kids moving a lot, get them to have fun, and to make sure they give their parents a nap later on," said Fule.



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Close battle

The Strathmore Storm U18 Tier 3 scored first and led for most of the game, but ultimately allowed two third period goals en route to a 2-1 loss to Innisfail on Jan. 19 at the Strathmore Family Centre. The Storm will now host Rockyford on Feb. 2 (7:15 p.m.) at the Strathmore Family Centre.

Joe Lepage Photos

Town passes operating line of credit bylaw for 2024 operational year

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Town of Strathmore council gave third and final reading to its 2024 Operating Line of Credit Bylaw, No. 24-05 during the Jan. 17 regular meeting of council.

Bylaw 24-05 will serve effectively as a contingency in order to allow the town to continue delivering its regular programs and services to residents, businesses, and key stakeholders while taxes are being collected up until July 1, 2024.

Once taxes are collected, if the town had been at all required to draw funds from its line of credit, those monies will be paid back immediately. It is anticipated by town administration that use of the town's line of credit will not be needed.

"This is a just in case bylaw. One of the reasons

we ask (for this to be passed) every year is to ensure that if we ever came into a crunch where we could not meet our cash requirements before our property taxes are due on June 30, we would be able to draw on our line of credit," said Leana Ashbacher, senior manager of financial services for the town. "The Town of Strathmore has had an operating line of credit for close to a decade, and we have never, ever needed to use it. I believe this is due to our fiscal responsibility on how we spend money, and knowing that our capital projects are normally paid for during the summer months during construction season."

The proposed recommendation to council was intended to ensure that the town will have the financial means to pay for offering its programs, pay contracts, and deliver services to residents.

Town administration noted they anticipate no changes to the town's services, programs or ope-

rations in regards to the line of credit, prior to the request being passed.

Under Section 251, Subsection 1 of the Municipal Government Act, a municipality may only borrow money if the borrowing is authorized by a borrowing bylaw. This section of the Municipal Government Act applies to operating expenditures of a municipal body.

"This is a contingency approach to support the town's existing line of credit, but does require a bylaw to comply with the legislation," said Ashbacher.

Following her presentation, Ashbacher requested council give all three readings of the bylaw during the Jan. 17 meeting.

Motions made by Coun. Denise Peterson and Coun. Melissa Langmaid for all three readings regarding the bylaw were passed unanimously by council.

Anime Club debuts in Strathmore

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Local Strathmore business owner, Denise Geremia, has taken it upon herself to launch an Anime Club for youths in the community.

Geremia explained the idea for the club stemmed from a desire to help her daughter make friends and meet new people who share similar interests.

"I made a post on (the) 'I Love Strathmore' (Facebook Page) as an anonymous poster, and there ended up being a lot of parents whose kids are also having the same issues making friends," she said. "A bunch of these kids are obsessed with anime, but it makes it a bit harder to make friends in their school when you're obsessed with something that is very different from what other kids are into."

Following the response from other parents regarding their kids' mutual interests, Geremia decided to volunteer her store, Lil Hoots, to host the debut club meeting.

The club met for the first time, Jan. 11, with six kids coming out to participate, despite the adverse weather conditions. Geremia has been making efforts since then to coordinate with other parents to talk about hosting future meetings and making the club a regular occurrence.

"The Strathmore Municipal Library has also offered to help host the events and organize some things because

they have more time to put into it and they have a much bigger pool of resources," said Geremia. "They are allowed to play movies, and they can actually have somebody who is focused on this club, so I have been also talking to them and seeing how they can help organize it. Hopefully this can become a much bigger thing than just having it at my store."

Anime is a Japanese style of animated art which can be thought of similarly to American cartoons. Stories are told across a wide host of genres with often very exaggerated or over the top characters.

Themes can range between fantasy, science fiction, sports, music, superheroes, comedy, romance, slice of life, among just about anything else. Anime can be original series, or they may be based off of manga books, which are similar in concept to graphic novels.

Geremia added some of the kids who attended the first Anime Club meeting even came in cosplay – dressed in costume, of their favourite characters.

"If you are just going to one school and none of the kids at that particular school are into that, you start to assume that you are different or you are strange, or it is something that nobody else is into, and then all of a sudden, there is this whole network of kids who are into the exact same thing that you are," she said. "You can become yourself and be yourself and if a parent can step out of their own comfort

zone and encourage a love or obsession that their children are into ... they can help their kids bloom and go out and become who they actually are. If that is something that I can do for my daughter and some of these other kids, I will 100 per cent do it."

The club was initially advertised for youths between 12 and 15 years of age, though one as young as 10-years-old attended the first club meeting. The idea is to encourage a youth de-

mographic to have a safe place to be, but nobody will be excluded from the club.

More information regarding the Anime Club is available through the Strathmore Anime Club Facebook page. Youth who may be interested are encouraged to talk to their parents or guardians about joining. Similarly, parents and guardians with children who share the interest are encouraged to reach out.

NEXT HOME GAMES

Saturday, February 3

8 pm vs Three Hills

Strathmore Family Centre
- Gold Arena

Strathmore Times

PLAYER OF THE GAME

Jan 20
Tegan Skehar

Jan 21
Charlie Goll

WHEATLAND KINGS

Come Cheer on Your Strathmore Wheatland Kings!



Storm surge

The Strathmore Storm U15 Tier 2 team scored three goals in each of the first two periods en route to an 8-1 win over Oyen on Jan. 21 at the Strathmore Family Centre. The Storm will hit the road for a pair of games before returning home on Feb. 10 (11:30 a.m.) to host Irvine.

Joe Lepage Photos

Town passes 2024 Supplementary Assessment Bylaw

JOHN WATSON

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Town of Strathmore Council gave third reading to its 2024 Supplementary Assessment Bylaw, No. 24-04, during the Jan. 17 regular meeting of council.

The bylaw is designed to provide clear parameters to ensure that taxes are levied fairly, and town revenues are stable.

"This is our annual bylaw that allows our appointed assessor, Wild Rose Assessment Services, for the municipality to determine new improvements added to our properties since Dec. 31 of the previous year," said Leana Ashbacher, senior manager of financial services for the Town of Strathmore. "Without this bylaw, we cannot do supplementary assessments which adds additional revenue to the organization."

The supplementary assessment bylaw is an annual bylaw request submitted to council every January, and at the time, Ashbacher requested council pass all three readings of the bylaw during the meeting at which it was presented.

Organizational implications of the recommendation ensure that the town will have the means to pay for offering the programs and services to new taxpayers.

The intent of the recommendation was to allow the town to impose taxes on all partially constructed or additional buildings constructed throughout the year. Being an annual process, this allows the town to be able to capitalize on

property taxes from new developments as it continues to grow and expand.

This implies that tax revenue for the town will be increased due to new construction completed throughout the capital year.

In the publicly available document, which was presented to council for review, it is stated exact estimates regarding increases to tax revenue are difficult to estimate, as changes will depend on the volume of new construction taking place within Strathmore.

Section 313, Subsection 1 of the Municipal Government Act allows council to pass a bylaw authorizing supplementary assessments to be prepared for the purpose of imposing a tax under Part 10 of the Act in the same year.

In the Municipal Government Act, Section 313 also speaks to the preparation of supplementary assessments, this bylaw, and it makes reference to all improvements, and all manufactured homes within the municipality.

Without passing the bylaw, the town would be unable to prepare supplementary assessments during the taxation year for several improvements that are outlined within the publicly available request for decision.

Motions to pass readings for Bylaw 24-04 made by Coun. Denise Peterson and Coun. Melissa Langmaid were passed unanimously by council. All three readings were passed during the Jan. 17 meeting, as requested by town administration.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The CBC is worth saving

To the Editor

Does the CBC say Canadian to you?

What does the Conservative Party of Canada want to do with the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation?

So, what has this programming been offering all Canadians? Let's do a quick partial review.

TV Programming: Hockey Night in Canada; The Nature of Things; The National – a news program that covers ALL of Canada; Land and Sea – a program stories about Canada's east coast; Dragons Den – Canadian entrepreneurs; Marketplace – a program to alert Canadian consumers; Coronation Street and Murdoch Mysteries; CBC news at noon – the only program that covers the Ottawa's house parliament question period and the only station to consistently have CBC reports and reporters in areas covering all of Canada including our Northern territories; The Calgary eye opener; little kids' morning programming; Our Calgary; The Fifth Estate - this is just a sample of TV programming that is all Canadian, only on CBC.

Radio Programming: Cross Country checkup, Alberta at Noon, The Eye Opener and The Homestretch, The World this Hour and the World at Six, As It Happens and The Current and Ideas – three Canadian programs talking to world's people of "trusted verified" about recent events, good and bad. Q – mainly about Canadian music and art, along with many Canadian podcasts. This is just a sample of Radio programming that is all Canadian only on CBC.

The Conservative Party of Canada's leader Pierre Poilievre's election platform is to get rid of the CBC. I have to ask myself, why would you want to remove the only program that covers all of Canada in only the way the CBC does? Is this another media outlet to be eliminated? Their TV and radio programming is mainly about Canada and all of its people, with far less advertising and more information programming delivered for your valuable time. As well, there are some Canadians in our vast county that only get CBC over the air transmission at no cost. Yes, antennas are still used even around Calgary.

This important Canadian connection would be lost to those

that don't have internet coverage. It could add to their daily cost for a pay-for-view replacement, if even available in their area. This seems contrary to the Conservatives' stand to reduce Canadian costs and communicating with all Canadians. More importantly what Canadian benefit do Canadians get in not having the CBC? What are we being saved from? The truth is your choice. That said, I guess it's hard for a politician to understand the convenience of not having to pay for a Canadian news program on an air transmitted signal to reach all Canadians for TV and radio, when they have almost everything paid for by the Canadian taxpayer.

The CBC employs 7,444 taxpaying Canadians that will be out of a job – does that make sense? What's also hard to understand as reported is Poilievre suggested he supports radio-Canada's French services only, but not the English portion of this CBC program. Hmmm, it kind of makes you wonder why. Gee, could it be about keeping certain voters happy on both sides of this issue? Note, to all politician's, Canadians are not stupid people, spoon feeding is not wanted or appreciated, use your resources to focus on the real issues Canadians are facing.

CBC has stated the cost to run this Canadian operation is about 10 cents a day per Canadian. You pay way more for a cup of coffee. Do you think losing all of the great uniquely Canadian programming from West to East to Arctic coast because of a political party's opinion is in the best interest of all Canadians? Is this worth losing the only consistent Canadian broadcast company that covers all of Canada in news, arts and entertainment for 10 cents a day? How does that issue sit with what you want the government parties to really focus on? Do you think getting rid of the CBC will bring Canadians closer together by having less Canadian content? Do these questions seem a little redundant to you? Then talk to your MP and MLA if you want to keep Canadian programming Canadian. Fortunately, we still have the voting process which allows your choice to keep what makes us uniquely Canadian.

Dennis Bigras
Wheatland County

Obituary



ZAROKOSTAS, Vasilios "Bill"

It is with profound sadness that we announce that Vasilios "Bill" Zarokostas, 77, of Strathmore, Alberta passed away on January 16th, 2024, surrounded by his family.

Bill was born Sept. 3, 1946 to Stamatis and Eleni Zarokostas in Leonidio, Greece. Bill was the youngest of 8 siblings. He made the bold move to Calgary, Alberta at the youthful age of 21 to embark on his fearless journey. He then met the love of his life (JoAnn) shortly thereafter. They were married for 53 incredible years. They had 3 children: Barry (Zabrina), Mike, and Jackie (Trevor). From there his family grew to include 9 grandkids: Brett, Marcus, Justin, London, Kennedy, Mason, Maxwell, Raina and Gabriel.

He was a pioneer of many restaurants in his hometown of Strathmore. Starting off with Villa Pizza which was followed by many more. Lots of the locals still refer to him as "Pizza Bill" and rave about it being the best they ever had.

He was a great man with an infectious smile and warmth making everyone around him feel like they were family. He was generous, kind, and gentle. Just the right mix of crazy and fun. His accent was undeniable and sometimes challenging to understand. Regardless, he was truly one of a kind and he will not be forgotten.

A funeral service will be held on Wednesday, January 24, 2024, at Hope Community Covenant Church (Strathmore) at 1:00 p.m.

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

Wheatland Funeral Home
Strathmore, AB 403-934-4404

NOTICES

FRANCHISE FEE INCREASE NOTICE

Please be advised that the Village of Standard is proposing to increase the local access fee, which is charged to FortisAlberta Inc. (FortisAlberta) for use of municipal lands for its power lines effective **April 1, 2024***.

The fee is recovered by FortisAlberta from its customers as the local municipal access fee on electric billings of all customers that receive electric service in the Village of Standard. This local access fee will be increased from **\$0.00 (0%) to \$3.24 (4%)** of the delivery charge of FortisAlberta, excluding energy related riders. This calculation is based on 640 kWh consumption in 30 days.

Questions or concerns should be directed to Yvette April, Chief Administrative Officer at 403-644-3968.

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www.StrathmoreTimes.com

HELP WANTED

SPRUCE POINT PARK Association now accepting applications for the position of: PARK MANAGER, 2024 season, May 1st to September 15th (end date flexible). Spruce Point Park Campground and Marina is located on Lesser Slave Lake approximately 285 kms northwest of Edmonton, AB near Hamlet of Kinuso. Manager must live on site in own RV unit. Full-service lot provided. For complete job description package please call 780-775-3805 or email sprucepointpark@gmail.com. Closing date: Until a suitable candidate is found.

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

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Upcoming Council Meetings

January 24, 2024 | 6 P.M.

February 7, 2024 | 6 P.M.

February 14, 2024 | 6 P.M.

Committee of the Whole
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.

2024 Town Council Meeting Schedule

- Regular Council Meeting
- Committee of the Whole Meeting
- Annual Organizational Meeting

Time: 6 p.m.
Location: Council Chambers at the Strathmore Municipal Building (1 Parklane Dr., Strathmore, AB T1P 1K2)

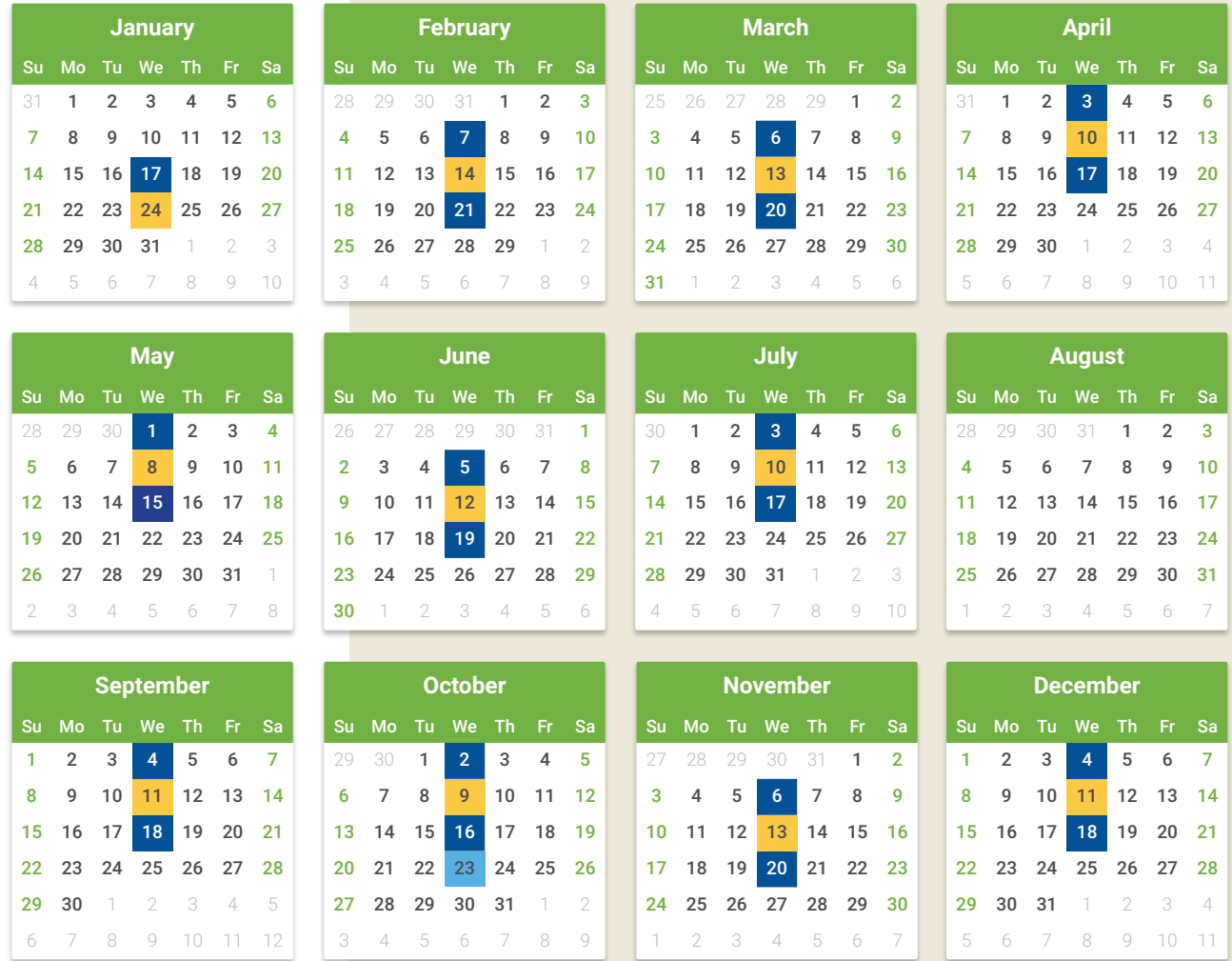
Attending a meeting
Hearing from the community is important to us and you're welcome at any Regular Council or Committee of the Whole Meeting. You don't need to call ahead or register to observe Strathmore Council in action. There is ample public seating and additional standing room if needed. You can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

Coming and going
Meetings generally start at 6 p.m. and begin with Closed Meeting agenda items before moving to a Public portion. Meetings last as long as necessary for Council to finish the business on the agenda. Members of the public may come and go as they please but are asked to do so quietly so as not to disturb the discussion.

Public participation at meetings
Your Council actively encourages people to get involved. We make time at the start of every Regular Meeting of Council for people to speak on any item on the agenda. Hearing from the community helps Council so don't be shy. Submit a "Request to Speak at Council Meeting Form" at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled meeting.

Presenting at meetings
Have an idea you think Council should hear about? You're welcome to form a delegation and request to present at a meeting, but you'll need to register as a delegation so we can save your place on the agenda. Interested delegations must submit a summary in writing, briefing Council about what it is that you will be presenting. This must be submitted to the Manager of Legislative Services (lsadmin@strathmore.ca) by noon the Wednesday before a meeting.

*Schedule subject to change upon Council Resolution.



HEART MONTH

February is 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. 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 active with Strathmore's Recreation Team.

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. (for all other members)

Family Centre Arena

Free Skate Sundays

Sponsored by UFA Strathmore

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

Strathmore Motor Products Sports Centre

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 15th, 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
Spray 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

Learn more at Strathmore.ca/Recreation
Register for classes and camps at Strathmore.ca/RecSchedule