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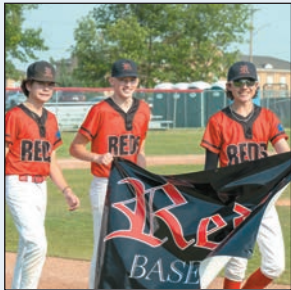
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Purposeful youth

Page 8



Provincial hosts

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More homes planned

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

First reading has been granted to Bylaws 26-11 and 26-24, facilitating the next steps to be taken for more residential development to be constructed in Strathmore.

Should they be allowed to pass, the proposed amendments would allow for the development of nearly 400 residential units as well as commercial uses within the area structure plan (ASP).

“The subject lands are currently designated residential within the 2014 municipal development plan. The site is located at the northeast corner of the intersection of George Freeman Trail and Edgeview Road,” said Kate Bakun, planner with the Town of Strathmore.

The Town of Strathmore approved the area structure plan for “The Prairies” in 2011. The amendments to the bylaws would serve to implement changes proposed by the developer, as well as to properly designate the subject lands for this type of neighbourhood development.

Bylaw 11-08, being the initial Prairies bylaw, included four neighborhood “Nodes” throughout the ASP. Bylaws 26-11 and 26-24 focus on “Node D,” also known as “Prairies View.”

Node D is the southernmost section of the total area structure plan, which stretches up to Township Road 244 as its northern border.

A public consultation for neighbourhood Node D was hosted at the Strathmore Motor Products Sports Centre, May 6, resulting in positive reception, according to the developer.

The 398 proposed residential units are described as one and two-bedroom attached dwellings intended for use as rental properties.

Continued on Page 4



Candy time!

A parade participant tosses candy to spectators during the Rockyford parade on July 25. The annual parade featured a variety of floats, emergency vehicles, local organizations and community groups as it made its way through downtown Rockyford, helping kick off the community's rodeo weekend. See Page 2 for more coverage.

Joe Lepage Photo

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Rodeo tradition

The 67th annual Rockyford Rodeo drew visitors from across the region on July 24-25 for a weekend of western tradition and family fun. In addition to the Saturday morning pancake breakfast, parade and the CPRA rodeo on both days, the weekend included mutton bustin', mini wild pony races, a barbecue beef supper, local entertainment, a beer gardens, concert, and an all-ages cabaret.

Joe Lepage Photos



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Town to consider permitted use of OHVs on local roads

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Town of Strathmore is considering exploration of a bylaw amendment to permit the use of off-highway vehicles (OHVs) on local roads.

Local resident, Murray Norrington, brought the idea forward to council, July 22, for their information and consideration.

He stated the change is permitted under the Alberta Safety Act, and is already allowed in municipalities such as Sylvan Lake, Beiseker, Legal, Edson, High Level, the County of Wetaskiwin, Yellowhead County, and Wood Buffalo.

“This change would not only benefit myself, but other owners of street legal off-highway vehicles. This change would also allow the town to use their own Kabotas on the roads legally as well,” said Norrington. “At present, if I need to take my vehicle anywhere in town, I have to load it onto a trailer and transport it that way. I would much prefer to just be able to go to the town hall or the Legion, or a restaurant to pick up supplies from local stores without having to drive a full-size pickup.”

He argued that OHVs are both less expensive to operate than a more standard vehicle and causes less wear and tear on town infrastructure.

The request is not to allow them on highways such as the Trans-Canada, rather only on local municipal roads.

Norrington suggested the town may also consider mandating features such as rotating lights on UHVs for search and rescue purposes, and annu-

ally renewed permit stickers.

His own vehicle which served as an example during his presentation, he explained only has a top speed of 70 km/hr and is not believed to be crash mandated by Alberta’s Highway Traffic Act.

“What was being proposed (was) that any vehicle needed to have the requisite equipment to be on the road, that being a seat belt, signal lights, headlights, tail lamps, and registration and proof of insurance,” said Staff Sgt. Mark Weilgosz, noting the similar proposal which was previously brought forward to the City of Chestermere. “Any operator that was operating on the road needed to be fully licensed. Furthermore, the path was to be the direct route to get either to the lake, or the vehicle was to be used in relation to a practical purpose, such as clearing snow.”

Weilgosz added in High Level, the conditions passed regarding their operation was to permit OHVs in order for residents to move them to places where they could be used without needing to transport them on trailers.

CAO Kevin Scoble clarified council would have to amend the local Traffic Control Bylaw in order to see OHVs permitted for local road use.

Should the town decide to proceed, per unit costs to inspect vehicles in question would have to be discovered and rates assigned to the process.

Director Mark Pretzlaff pointed out town staff would also be required to determine the sort of knowledge and training required to authorize distributing a license or permit to an applicant for their vehicle.

Town reallocates \$2.65 million through 2028 to finance replacement fire truck

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Town of Strathmore has reallocated a significant portion of its available grant funding in order to finance a replacement aerial fire truck.

Passing the amendment, July 22, \$1.25 million will be taken from the 2027 Local Government Fiscal Framework, and \$1.4 million will be from the 2028 Canada Community Building Fund.

“While administration was developing the financial plan, we brought the 2026 budget to you. What we did not do is, we did not secure the funding for the full four-year plan,” said Leana Ashbacher, chief financial officer for the Town of Strathmore. “What we did in 2025, we had requested from council the \$350,000 to be funded through reserves, and then in 2026, we had requested that the remaining part of the aerial fire truck was to be funded through debt.”

Now, with an established understanding of funding the town has been able to secure, Ashbacher said it was the recommendation of administration to shift from funding the truck through debt, to funding through LGFF and CCBF grants for the remaining \$2.65 million.

She explained that by passing the amendment, it changes the capital budgeting forecast, requiring more projects to be brought forward through debt instead of grants.

“We need to ensure that we are replacing our

infrastructure in the right time frame to ensure the safety of our residents; ensure we have safe water, safe sewer, safe roads, as well as ensuring that our equipment is replaced in a timely fashion,” said Ashbacher.

In July 2025, council approved a capital budget amendment for the downpayment on an aerial ladder firetruck in response to a projected 10 per cent price jump.

The amendment to make the downpayment at the time locked in the price for the town, and no further payments were noted to be required until 2027.

This allowed town administration the time to develop a financial plan for the remaining balance and align the delivery timeline with the retirement of the current machine.

The price increase was noted by the manufacturer as a result of the threat of tariffs from the United States on Canada at the time.

At the inquiry of Coun. Melissa Langmaid, Ashbacher clarified council and administration will have to discuss, come 2027 budget season, what the extent of the impacts will be regarding other infrastructure projects.

This will effectively boil down to which projects will see delays, and which priorities the town will take on debts for in order to see more timely completion.

STRATHMORE

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Egyptian bull god

5. Romanian monetary unit

8. Santa’s helper

11. Fictional Pink Floyd corporal

13. Sea eagle genus

14. Broad volcanic crater

15. Minneapolis suburb

16. Actual commercial worth (abbr.)

17. Exchange rate

18. Ethnic peoples in Guinea

20. Men’s fashion accessory

21. Craft material

22. Offerings

25. Early

30. Large room

31. Soviet Socialist Republic

32. One who hauls

33. Shorthand for accepting

38. Promotional materials

41. Loss of memory

43. One who beheads

45. Photographers

48. Small, rich sponge cake

49. White clerical vestment

50. Partner to “oohed”

55. Abba __, Israeli politician

56. Zero

57. Owl monkey genus

59. Lace bug genus

60. Mild expression of surprise

61. Storage devices

62. Keyboard key

63. Make a mistake

64. One-time Korean president

CLUES DOWN

1. Bridge building degree

2. Expression of sorrow or pity

3. Large, stocky, lizard

4. Rumanian river

5. Missive

6. Stout-bodied moths

7. Brings out

8. Bird of prey

9. King of Thebes

10. Cleaving tool

12. African antelope

14. Three are particularly famous

19. Satisfy

23. C. European river

24. Dictator

25. Portion of (abbr.)

26. The 17th letter of the Greek alphabet

27. Consume food

28. Woman (French)

29. Scrape or wear away by friction

34. Popular vegetable

35. Pacific Standard Time

36. Brazilian state capital

37. Paddle

39. Cause to become insane

40. Drier and flakier

41. Mimic

42. ESPN host Kimes

44. One who moseys

45. Secret political clique

46. Behind the stern of a ship

47. Supernatural force

48. Sanctuary in Orthodox churches

51. Swiss river

52. Grayish white

53. Engrave

54. UNC’s chief rival

58. Midway between south and southeast

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For the love of the game

MELISSA PICHE
Times Contributor

Soccer players of all ages and skill levels will have a chance to hit the pitch this August as the Perkins Performance Football Foundation (PPFF) hosts its inaugural 3-on-3 soccer tournament.

The event is designed to bring the community together during the break between soccer seasons, offering a fun, fast-paced day that focuses less on competition and more on getting people out playing the game.

Ryan Perkins of the Perkins Performance Football Foundation said they knew they wanted to host this event during a time when there was a natural break in between seasons.

“It was a good opportunity for people to still be able to get out with kind of a smaller number,” he said. “Essentially, you don’t have to field the whole team of 11 players or nine players, but instead, three or four seems a lot more manageable given the time of year.”

The smaller format brings a different style of soccer.

“It also gives us an opportunity to get a lot of people through and kind of get exposed to it in a tighter context,” Perkins said. “Being that they are shorter, faster paced games, it really works on a lot of the close ball skills.”

The response from the community has already been encouraging.

“We’ve actually been hearing from quite a few people, even ones that aren’t able to make it because they’re out of town, that they were interested in participating in future ones,” Perkins said. “At the same time, we’ve had quite a few registrations, so it’s been a really positive response.”

Making soccer accessible has always been one of PPFF’s primary goals and Perkins said the tournament is another step toward that mission.

“It allows us to create a tournament environment where

you have a huge age range,” he said. “Whether you’re a fairly new player or you’ve been playing your whole life, it’s an opportunity to come out, have fun and kind of hang out and be social with your friends.”

Organizers intentionally created as many age categories as possible to make sure everyone has a chance to participate. If this year’s tournament proves successful, Perkins said the foundation has even bigger ideas for future events.

“We’ve also talked about, if we can prove this pilot successful, including small corporate teams or family teams where full families that play the sport could potentially play 3 vs 3 versus other families that play the sport,” he said.

The tournament will be about more than just the games. Organizers are planning additional activities throughout the day, including a community skill zone where visitors can try different soccer training equipment.

“We’re also going to have a skill zone up,” Perkins said. “You can come and play with a volley net. We have a bunch of other training aids there, like a shooter tutor and a bunch of other kinds of training apparatus for people to come and play with.”

They’re also hoping to include freestyle soccer demonstrations, food trucks and music to help create a festival atmosphere.

On the field, players can expect a game that’s quick from start to finish.

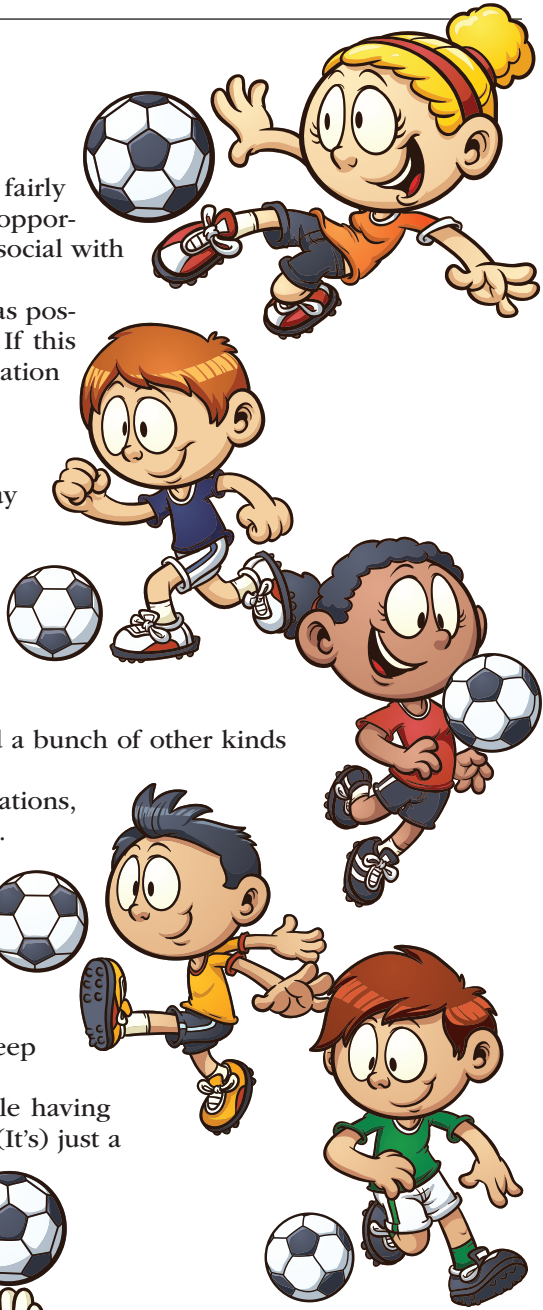
“The pitches are 10 metres by 15 metres and they’re enclosed by approximately two-foot high, inflatable walls,” Perkins said. “Because of that you get a lot of speed.”

Tournament rules also prohibit slide tackles, helping keep the games safe while maintaining the fast pace.

“It keeps it safer, but at the same time it also has people having to recover quickly and keep the ball at the feet,” he said. “(It’s) just a really high-paced, exciting, kind of fun environment that will hopefully bring out the best in our competitors.”

Teams of three or four players can register for \$80 per team. Individuals who don’t have a team can also contact the foundation directly and organizers will try to help connect them with a team.

For more information, to register a team or to inquire about volunteering or joining a team as an individual, visit PPFF.ca/3vs3 or contact the foundation via email (admin@ppff.ca).



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Thought for the Week
~
Are you in the habit of seeing obstacles as opportunities to learn and grow?

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Town takes next step in The Prairies neighbourhood development proposal

Continued from Page 1

In its current iteration, the proposal suggests two entrances to the neighbourhood from Edgeview Road.

A community amenity described as a “clubhouse” has also been indicated within the ASP for use by future residents.

Currently, the subject lands are classified as Agriculture General District under the town’s land use bylaw. Residential, commercial, and supporting land use developments are not permitted use cases under this classification, thus requiring the amending bylaw to be allowed to proceed.

Land ownership of the Node D parcel is attributed by the applicant parties to PMC (Strathmore) Corp, consisting of approximately 47.35 acres.

In its entirety, The Prairies area structure plan occupies a total area of approximately 394.18 acres, divided into nine ownership blocks at the time the document was prepared.

Approval of the land use bylaw amendment will result in future applications for subdivision, development permits, building, electrical, plumbing, and other applicable permits associated with the creation of a new neighbourhood.

As the proposed bylaws are concurrent, a public hearing will be scheduled for Sept. 2, for discussion and feedback regarding both.

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Happy people at Happy Cat

MELISSA PICHE
Times Contributor

There were tears, disbelief and plenty of gratitude when Happy Cat Sanctuary learned it had been named the winner of the PawMobile campaign.

For Michele Shave, Director of Operations and one of the organization's founders, the moment was about much more than receiving a new vehicle.

"Honestly, we were in complete shock. When we found out we'd won, there were definitely tears," said Shave. "It wasn't just about receiving a vehicle; it was the feeling that our community truly believed in the work we do. Standing there as it happened was surreal."

The Strathmore-based rescue has been helping cats across Alberta since 2003, rescuing abandoned, stray, injured and surrendered cats while providing veterinary care, rehabilitation, foster care and adoption services.

The organization also focuses on education, spay and neuter initiatives, community partnerships and trap-neuter-return programs to help reduce the number of homeless cats.

Shave said the PawMobile campaign became a reminder of just how many people are invested in the sanctuary's mission.

"The support was overwhelming. We had volunteers, adopters, local businesses, families, friends across the world, and people we'd never even met sharing our posts and voting," she said. "It reminded us that animal rescue isn't something we do alone; it's something our entire community is part of."

The campaign encouraged communities to vote for their favourite rescue, while raising money for the Country for Critters Fund, ensuring every nominated organization benefited.

The new PawMobile will quickly become one of the sanctuary's most valuable tools. Reliable transportation is a constant need for emergency rescues, veterinary appointments, delivering supplies and attending community events throughout the region.

"It will make an enormous difference," Shave said. "Reliable transportation is absolutely essential in rescue. We're constantly transporting cats to veterinary appointments, picking up emergency intakes, delivering supplies, attending

community events and supporting rescues in surrounding areas."

Since opening its larger downtown adoption centre, Happy Cat Sanctuary has continued to expand its work. The facility can comfortably house about 50 cats, although that number depends on the medical and behavioural needs of the animals currently in care. Foster homes remain a critical part of the organization's success.

"We always need more foster families," she said. "Every new foster home means we can save more lives."

Shave, who co-founded Happy Cat Sanctuary with Barb Stefanich in 2003, said she became involved after seeing firsthand the growing need while working at a veterinary clinic. Over the years, her role has included everything from rescuing cats and fundraising to working with veterinarians, municipalities, bylaw officers and volunteers.

Among the hundreds of rescues over the years, one cat continues to stand out.

"For me personally, that would be a cat named Stapler, the first cat we treated for FIP (feline infectious peritonitis). Not long ago a FIP diagnosis was almost always fatal but thanks to new treatments and incredible community support to help fund his medication, Stapler survived," said Shaver.

Like many animal rescues, the Happy Cat Sanctuary continues to face growing challenges as veterinary costs rise and more abandoned and surrendered animals need help.

"The need keeps growing while resources don't," Shave said. "Donating, volunteering, attending fundraising events, choosing adoption and even sharing our social media posts all make a real difference. Every little bit helps save lives."

As the excitement of the PawMobile win settles in, Shave hopes supporters know how much their votes and encour-

agement meant to everyone involved.

"Thank you. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you. This wasn't just a win for Happy Cat; it was a win for every cat we'll be able to help because of your support," said Shave. "Every vote, every donation, every share and every encouraging message reminded us that our community truly cares."

Residents will get their first chance to see the new PawMobile during the upcoming Strathmore Stampede.



How healthy are your stools? You should check your stools after a bowel movement. The health of your bowels is determined not just how often you "go" but also the shape of our stool as well. Google the *Bristol Stool Form Scale*. In pictures, it gives the appearance of various stools and you can see how your stools compare.

The amount of protein needed per day is about 1-2 grams per kilogram of body weight. For example, if you weigh 160 lb or 72.5 kilograms, you need about 72.5 grams of protein in your daily diet. A 6 oz steak contains about 42 grams of protein; a cup of Greek yogurt has about 17 grams and a half cup of tofu has about 20 grams. So it is easy to get your protein needs satisfied by diet and not have to resort to protein supplements.

At least one in three women will suffer an osteoporosis fracture in their lifetime. Most people reach their peak bone mass around age 20-30 after which bone demineralization can start to occur. Risk factors for low bone mineral density include advancing age, genetics, smoking, inflammatory illnesses and any history of fractures.

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August 11, 2026, 9:00 a.m. | Council Meeting
August 18, 2026, 9:00 a.m. | MPC | PPC | COW

For call-in details, access links, and agenda packages, please visit our website.
<https://wheatlandcounty.ca/agendasandminutes/>

GRAVEL SALES

Wheatland County's 2026 Gravel Sale Schedule is now available, with three scheduled sale dates:

- June 10–11
- July 8–9
- August 12–13

Crushed gravel and pit run will be available for purchase at designated County pits.

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View sale dates, locations, materials, and purchase details:





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- Financial Analyst
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Rodeo Warm Up

Children and families embraced their western spirit during the Strathmore Municipal Library’s Rodeo Warm Up event on July 24. Held as part of the Summer Reading Club, the free community event featured animal-themed activities, a petting zoo with pigs, goats and other friendly farm animals, and encouraged participants to dress in their favourite western attire ahead of the Strathmore Stampede July 31 to Aug. 3

Joe Lepage Photos



Youth recognized

Participants of the Purposeful Youth Network International’s Youth Employment Skills & Strategy (YESS) program gathered for a Recognition Ceremony on July 25 at the organization’s Strathmore office. The event celebrated the participants’ hard work, personal growth and accomplishments as they completed the employment readiness program.

Joe Lepage Photos

New traffic calming policy to see debate within town

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Following up on previously implemented traffic control measures on Maplewood Drive, Town of Strathmore Council will review a new “traffic calming” policy in September.

Ethan Wilson, manager of infrastructure for the town, addressed the Committee of the Whole, July 15, to present the draft of the policy as information.

“We have put together a policy which is meant to be used with the capital budget that council has allocated annually for traffic calming. We don’t want to be coming back to council every year with a list of projects and having council select the ones that they prefer,” said Wilson.

“We also want to have some flexibility that, maybe we do get a concerned citizen or a concerned school... within a certain area, if we have the budget available and it falls within the policy, then we can proceed with it.”

Mayor Pat Fule noted specifically the success observed by the measures present on Maplewood Drive despite initial dissent from the surrounding community.

“We took a lot of controversy over it and that road has, I believe, succeeded in traffic calming because that road was not intended to be any kind of a high-speed connector road,” said Fule.

“There is a school zone, a playground zone, and two churches. I have not re-

ceived one complaint through the winter, and I have driven it at school times, non-school times, and the road seems to be working.”

Coun. Claude Brown added his belief that physical markers and visual cues would do more to slow oncoming traffic than simply posting lower speed limits.

He noted, however, a concern as to whether raised crosswalks acting as speedbumps would become notable obstacles for snow removal crews.

Depending on the intended location of a raised crosswalk or intersection, the town may also have to consider the additional installation of storm drains to combat potential pooling.

In regard to the costs of adding a raised crosswalk or intersection, Wilson estimated such projects could cost the town upwards of 10 times the amount compared to simply painting road markings.

“(As a) general rule, the speed limit in town is 50 km per hour unless posted otherwise, but that does not necessarily mean that is what we intend for traffic to drive at that speed everywhere,” said Wilson. “Maplewood Drive for example, it is posted 50 where it is not a playground zone, but the intent is not for people to drive 50 on that road. If we had every road with a different speed limit, it would be crazy.”

An exact date for when the policy would return before council was not indicated during the meeting.

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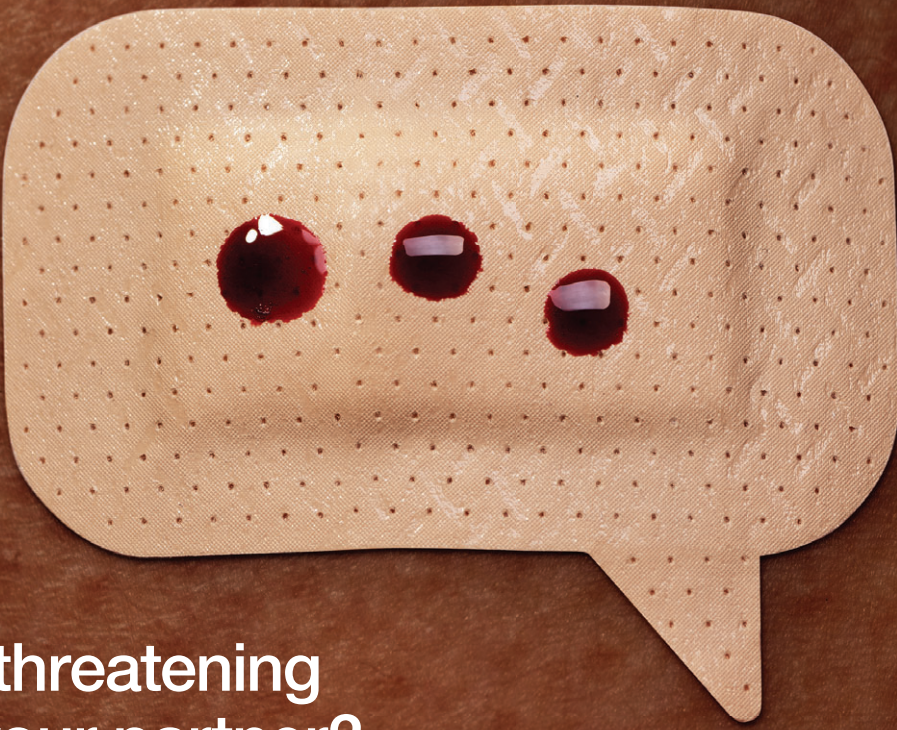
Silver winners!
The host Strathmore Reds 13U AA baseball team battled in the semifinal of the Tier 7 provincial championship July 26 at the Nathan Hasse Memorial Park ball diamonds in Strathmore. The Reds outscored the opposition 48-10 in the round robin before winning the semifinal en route to a provincial silver medal.

Joe Lepage Photos



Reds host provincials
Strathmore Reds hosted the Lloydminster Prairie Pirates during the opening round of the 2026 Baseball Alberta 18U AA Tier 5 Provincial Championship on July 24 at the Kinsmen Ball Diamond. The host Reds opened the weekend with a 17-4 loss, before falling 19-13 to the Drayton Valley Giants the next day. The Reds wrapped up the tournament with a 16-10 loss to the Bonnyville Braves in the consolation final on Sunday morning.

Joe Lepage Photos



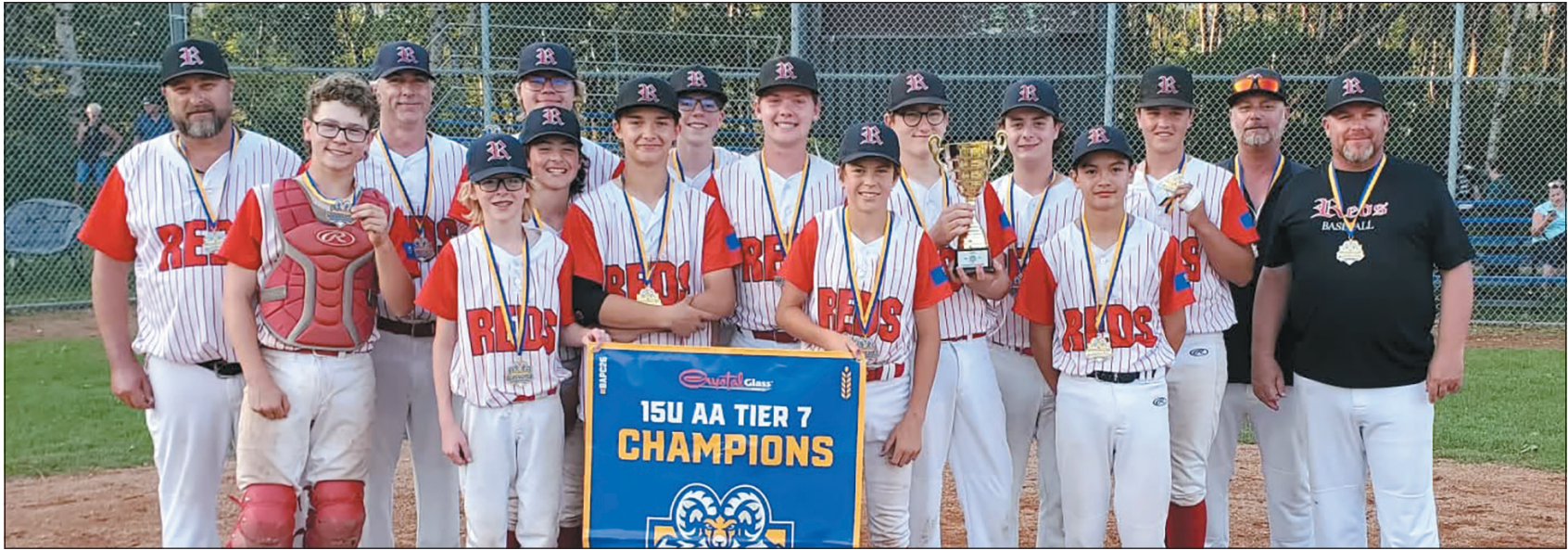
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Reds turn to gold

The Strathmore Reds 15U AA baseball team went on quite the run during the Tier 7 provincial championship July 24-26 in St. Albert. The Reds split their two round robin games before winning the semi-final and final, en route to a gold medal.

Photo Courtesy of the Strathmore Reds Facebook Page

Town considers update to citizenship awards

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Students throughout Strathmore may soon have opportunities to vie for new monetary awards financed by the town.

The Committee of the Whole debated, July 15, about several potential changes to the town's Citizenship Award Policy.

"The schools select students who exemplify outstanding citizenship within the community. The recipients of the awards receive a monetary award with values currently ranging between \$100 and \$500," said Johnathan Strathdee, manager of legislative services. "They also receive an engraved plaque, a signed letter from the mayor, and a one-year all-access pass to all recreati-

on facilities."

Members of council have, in previous years, attended respective ceremonies at schools where a nominated student was chosen to receive a citizenship award to make the presentations.

First among the suggested changes was to change the practice of handing out engraved plaques to certificates. Strathdee estimated this would save the town approximately \$1,400 annually, which could in turn be used to raise the amounts awarded to high school students.

"Administration could include sections within this policy regulating how other forms of recognition are conducted," added Strathdee. "We can create a standardized process that would align

better with our letter of support policy, and other policies that we have to clarify how individuals and groups receive recognition."

Presented before the committee as potential categories for recognition outside of nomination from schools included art, sport, academic and service achievements, community service or leadership, milestones and anniversaries of importance, or acts of service and heroism.

In 2026, the town spent \$9,435.25 relating to the distribution of the citizenship awards, including the cheques handed to the students, the money spent on the plaques, and the value of the all-access recreation passes.

Due to the size of its student population, Coun. Brent Wiley suggested increasing the award granted to Strathmore High School students, given that

the achievement is intrinsically more competitive than at other schools.

Coun. Claude Brown countered with not wishing to see any local student potentially disadvantaged by the award system simply because of which school they chose to complete their secondary education at.

There are currently 11 schools which are actively communicated with for consideration of citizenship awards. It was noted in the proposal to council that other schools not currently participating, such as the Holy Cross Collegiate Junior High, may be added to the program.

A drafted version of the policy will be brought forward to a future council meeting. Upon its approval, legislative services will reach out to the indicated schools to begin the process for the 2027 awards.

Gray's Park Binzebos debate returns to council

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Following up on a discussion brought to council in April, the Town of Strathmore is looking at shifting gears regarding the idea for "binzebos" to be constructed in Gray's Park.

Town administration brought the matter back before the Committee of the Whole, July 15, indicating the suggested location to be inappropriate for the installation and to consider a more suitable alternative.

"Environmental reserve lands help support ecological function and reduce risks associated with flood-prone or unstable ground and permanent or semi-permanent structures are inconsistent with the intended purpose of environmental reserve lands," said Jamie Dugdale, director of infrastructure for the Town of Strathmore. "The risk of approving these structures is, it could set a precedent for future requests to place structures within the environmental reserve. Incremental encroachment could erode the environmental function and purpose of the protected lands over time."

The original suggestion, put forward by the Western District Historical Society, was the construction of two binzebos – gazebo-like structures featuring the top of a grain silo serving as its roof, in Gray's Park.

In addition to the binzebos, the WDHS proposed to add a community bulletin board to Kinsmen Park near to the town administration building. This has since been set up as previously discussed.

Dugdale added in addition to the costs of construction, establishing such structures would also carry the potential for future expenses associated with en-

vironmental impact mitigation, restoration, maintenance obligations, and risk management responsibilities.

He suggested as an alternative, looking at municipal reserve lands which are allowed under the Municipal Government Act to feature intensive recreational opportunities.

"These alternatives can accommodate community features while preserving environmental reserve lands for their natural function," he said. "If an alternative location is found, the Western District Historical Society would still be required to get the proper permits and assume responsibility for liability as well as long-term maintenance of those structures."

Coun. Melissa Langmaid suggested as a potential alternative, to examine the viability of placing the proposed binzebos immediately south of the wetland complex not currently classed as environmental reserve, and soon to be obtained by the town.

The land being referenced is to be acquired by the town as part of the development conditions for West Creek Developments.

"There is no cohesive vision for what this area of our town needs to be and ... it fits my vision of what I have always looked at what Gray's Park would be in our community," she said. "I am open to discussing other areas for the binzebos, but I think my main hope is that we can start to invest and beautify some of the other parks around town."

With discussion still active among the committee, administration will continue to work with the WDHS and return before council at a later date with a more complete evaluation. At the time of the meeting, the report presented was for information purposes only.

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Protecting Alberta

CHANTELLE DE JONGE
Chestermere-Strathmore MLA

Our government is showing what strong partnerships can deliver for Albertans. Last week, our government strengthened regional trade and investment and helped Albertans protect our lakes and rivers from invasive species. These actions support and strengthen the well-being of our communities across the province.

Alberta was at the center of cross-border cooperation last week as Edmonton hosted the Pacific Northwest Economic Region's 2026 Annual Summit – also known as PNWER. This summit brought together western provinces, territories, and northwestern U.S. states to work on shared priorities like trade, energy, transportation, agriculture, education, and economic growth. Last year alone, PNWER's U.S. member states accounted for more than \$18 billion in trade with Alberta. Our MLAs were proud to showcase Alberta's economic strengths, build relationships, and promote our province as a reliable trading partner and a world-class place to invest.

Liquor distilleries, wineries, and breweries will soon have more access to sell their products across Canada. Alberta's

government has now signed direct-to-consumer alcohol sales agreements with eight provinces, increasing the number of customers they can sell to. Direct-to-consumer sales mean people in participating provinces can buy products directly from producers for personal use, without going through a retailer. This opens new markets for Alberta businesses, gives Canadians more choice, and helps reduce trade barriers between provinces.

Protecting Alberta's waters means stopping small issues before they create major damage. Through the "Don't Let It Loose" campaign, our government is reminding Albertans never to release aquarium pets like goldfish, live bait, sportfish, or water garden plants into local waters. Goldfish may seem harmless, but once released into ponds, lakes, or stormwater systems, they can multiply quickly and damage the habitat that native fish and wildlife depend on. They compete with native species for food, destroy aquatic plants, lower water quality, and can spread disease. A single released goldfish can produce an estimated 40,000 offspring within three years. By reporting sightings of invasive fish, Albertans can help protect our lakes, rivers, wildlife, and local ecosystems before the damage

spreads.

Finally, I am pleased to share that Alberta's government is investing \$168,000 in upgrades to the Lyalta Water Treatment Plant. This funding will support the replacement of the plant's ultraviolet (UV) disinfection system, a critical component in reducing harmful microorganisms and helping ensure the community continues to have access to safe, reliable drinking water. This investment reflects our government's commitment to strengthening essential infrastructure in smaller rural communities and ensuring residents have access to the services they rely on every day.

Alberta is strongest when we work with partners, support people who need help, and remove barriers that hold businesses back. Together, these actions show our government is focused on delivering results that keep Alberta stronger at home and even more competitive beyond our borders.

As always, please free to reach out to my office with your feedback and questions (Chestermere. Strathmore@assembly.ab.ca).

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

Summer safety tips for Strathmore Stampede

PRIMARY CARE ALBERTA

Stay safe while enjoying the Strathmore Stampede from July 31 to Aug. 3, by following simple summer safety tips to help prevent heat-related illness, stay hydrated and make the most of the celebration. Whether you're attending the rodeo, enjoying live music or taking part in other Stampede events, planning ahead can help you stay healthy throughout the long weekend.

Beat the heat

Simple precautions like staying hydrated and cool can protect you from the sun and heat this summer. Heat exhaustion can make you feel dizzy, nauseous, or faint. Children, older adults, and those with pre-existing medical conditions are particularly vulnerable to heat exhaustion and dehydration. Some medications can increase the risks related to heat exposure. Check with your care provider or pharmacist for more information.

To avoid heat-related illness and practice sun safety:

- Wear a broad-spectrum sunscreen with an SPF of 30 or higher, applying at least 30 minutes before going outside and reapplying every two hours
- Drink lots of water and other non-alcoholic, non-caffeinated beverages.
- Wear a wide-brimmed hat and sunglasses with a UVA/UVB CSA certified seal.
- Consider rescheduling outdoor activities to cooler hours of the day.
- Take frequent breaks from the heat in cooled indoor spaces where possible.

Heat stroke can result in high body temperature, lack of sweat, disorientation, fainting, or unconsciousness. If you're concerned someone may have heat stroke, move them to a shaded area, remove outer clothing and shoes, wrap them in a wet towel, and get medical attention.

Consider using less alcohol or going alcohol free while enjoying summer activities. Alcohol alters how we think, act, and

feel. The effects can change depending on your weight, sex, age, what you have eaten, and if you have taken any other substances (like prescription drugs, over-the-counter-medicine, cannabis, or other drugs). The size of a drink, the amount of alcohol in the drink, and how fast you drink also have an impact. Never leave your drink unattended, and do not accept drinks – even water – from someone you don't know and trust.

If you choose to use cannabis, opt for products with low THC. Start with a small amount and wait until you feel the full effects before taking more. This can take up to 30 minutes with inhaled cannabis and up to four hours with edible cannabis. Taking more can increase your risk of adverse effects. Cannabis effects can last up to 24 hours. If you choose to use cannabis, use only legally purchased cannabis. Cannabis purchased through non-legal sources is not tested for quality, may contain a different amount of THC than on the label and may contain harmful chemicals, pesticides, mold, fungus, or bacteria.

Alcohol and cannabis can affect your coordination, balance, reaction time, judgment, and ability to make safe and healthy decisions for you and others. Impacts can be serious, including injuries

from falls, drowning, memory loss, or medication interactions. Avoid mixing substances like alcohol and cannabis as the results can be unpredictable and dangerous.

Zero alcohol or cannabis is the limit when:

- Taking part in dangerous physical activities.
- Driving a vehicle, watercraft, or using machinery.
- If pregnant or planning to become pregnant.
- In situations where you're responsible for the safety of others.

If you choose to drink or consume cannabis, please do so responsibly and plan a safe way home ahead of time. When someone is choosing not to drink or use cannabis, be supportive of their decision to stay sober.

Care is a lifelong commitment for Primary Care Alberta. We plan, fund and support primary health-care across the province, improving access to care providers and offering front-line services through Health Link 811 and public health teams. Throughout the health journey, we are by your side – managing, preventing and reducing illness. Along with our partners, we nurture the connections our communities need to thrive and strengthen the health of all Albertans.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Listen to the constituents who elected you

To the Editor

Much has been said, written, and pleaded regarding the proposed Diode Data Centre at Highway 24 and Township Road 222 near Carseland. Since October 2025, residents have submitted 450 pages of opposition letters to Wheatland County, explaining why this location is unsuitable for heavy industry due to its proximity to numerous homes.

In 2018, when the Goldfinch Industrial Park was accepted by the Division 3 continuance, we were promised that a Light Industrial corridor would be maintained to protect residential areas from heavy industry. Council already broke that promise in 2023 when it allowed CGC to enter the Light Industrial corridor.

During the public hearing on July 7, 24 speakers – most holding proxies for multiple other individuals

– presented logical arguments against the location of this AI hyper-scale data centre. Despite this, council members maintained that the facility would benefit the entire county, even if it is not in the best interest of Division 3 residents. A second reading was adopted and then tabled for third reading on Aug. 11.

Now that a petition has been circulated, many residents from other divisions within Wheatland County have also expressed their opposition, encouraging the council to vote against redesignating the land from Light Industrial to Medium Industrial within the Goldfinch Industrial Park. I urge the council to listen to the constituents who elected you and defeat the third reading on Aug. 11.

*Ingrid Poffenroth
Division 3 Resident*

Reality check

To the Editor

As I write this, the air around my home is heavy with wildfire smoke here in S.E. Alberta. Smoke that comes from the ever-warming northern Boreal Forest. This problem was predicted years ago by climate experts.

The latest international emissions data offers a sobering reminder of where responsibility truly lies in the global climate conversation. Canada stands out sharply: the highest per capita emissions among major economies, exceeding even the United States. Equally striking is the contrast with the EU 27, a bloc of roughly 500 million people, whose per capita emissions are less than half those of Canada and significantly below those of the United States.

It is time for a reality check. There is an important tradeoff that needs careful policy consideration. The short/mid-term need for our domestic supply of oil from the tar sands versus the ever-growing apparent effect climate change is already having on our young people. Another pipeline will mostly financially benefit a small domestic elite and a larger number of foreign investors. Currently, 73 per cent of the oil and gas industry in Canada is owned by non-resident foreign citizens. A new pipeline will create about 12,000 temporary construction jobs, but only about 30-60 permanent jobs. I do support a new pipeline to Ontario but oppose a second new pipeline to the west coast.

*Ken Riley
Bassano, Alta.*

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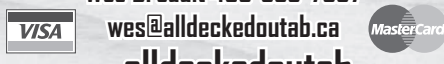
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Strathmore

Rural Reimagined

Upcoming Council Meetings

Sept 2, 2026 | 6 p.m.
Sept 9, 2026 | 6 p.m.
Sept 16, 2026 | 6 p.m.

Regular Meeting of Council
Committee of the Whole
Regular Meeting of Council

Come Say Hi

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

Strathmore Stampede Parade.



Strathmore Municipal Building



9 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Saturday, August 1, 2026

Come on down to the Strathmore Stampede Parade for a wild western celebration with horses, floats, and good ol' fashioned fun!

June to early August road maintenance.

Summer Construction on Wheatland Trail.

Starting as early as today through approximately early August, you may see construction activity along Wheatland Trail (Highway 817) as the Government of Alberta through Alberta Transportation and Economic Corridors begins road rehabilitation work in and around Strathmore.

Weather permitting, their contractor Aecon will be working on Highway 817 from approximately 1 km south of Highway 1 to 3 km north of Strathmore. Work anticipated to be completed between June 18 and June 30 includes:

- Concrete and sidewalk repairs at several locations within Strathmore, including near Esso, Fas Gas, and Strathmore Alliance Church
- Roadway repairs south of Brent Boulevard
- Crack sealing throughout the project area
- Installation of highway street lighting at the Highway 564 and Highway 817 intersection

To help reduce impacts on traffic, work south of Westmount Drive will generally take place overnight between 7 p.m. and 7 a.m. Work north of Westmount Drive will generally occur during daytime hours due to nearby residences.

You should expect to see reduced speeds, lane restrictions, and delays while work is underway. Paving operations are scheduled to begin after the July long weekend and run until early August, weather dependent.

Please note that Highway 817 and the above project is managed by the Government of Alberta and not the Town of Strathmore.

For more information on Government of Alberta road conditions and construction updates, call 5-1-1 toll-free or visit 511.alberta.ca

Information on Strathmore's roads can always be found at [Strathmore.ca/RoadReports](https://www.strathmore.ca/RoadReports)

Good food, great food. Get the Good Food Box.

The Good Food Box is a non-profit organization offering access to quality produce while ensuring variety, freshness and affordability. It is brought to you by your community, packed by volunteers and delivered to Strathmore through FCSS. This program is accessible for everyone regardless of income level. For more information, visit [Strathmore.ca/GoodFoodBox](https://www.strathmore.ca/GoodFoodBox)

Join our team.

Career opportunities available.

Are you looking for a new opportunity? The Town of Strathmore is hiring! We have a variety of positions available across different departments.

- Contract Group Fitness Instructor/Personal Trainer
- Lead Facility Operator (Arena)
- Legislative Services Officer
- Utilities Clerk

Check out [Strathmore.ca/Careers](https://www.strathmore.ca/Careers) for more information about current opportunities and discover your bright future with the Town of Strathmore.

Enjoy them safely.

Storm pond safety.

Storm ponds play an important role in protecting our homes and neighbourhoods. They help prevent flooding by managing heavy rainfall and slowly releasing water back into the environment. As water moves across streets and properties, it collects sediment, pollutants, and debris - storm ponds help filter this before it reaches our rivers and streams.

While Strathmore is home to many storm ponds, only Kinsmen Lake and Strathmore Lakes permit recreational use such as fishing. For your safety, please avoid any activity on or near other storm ponds. These ponds are deeper than they appear with water levels that rise and move quickly. They often contain contaminants like fertilizers, pesticides, and animal waste as well.

Visit our website, [Strathmore.ca/StormPonds](https://www.strathmore.ca/StormPonds) for more information.

New classes available.

Lifeguard academy.

Interested in the Lifeguard Academy? We've got some new classes for you to check out.

- Lifesaving Intermediate First Aid with CPR-C & AED
- Bronze Medallion
- Bronze Cross
- National Lifeguard
- Swim Instructor

Check out [Strathmore.ca/Recreation](https://www.strathmore.ca/Recreation) for more information.

Run. Walk. Gallop.



Join the race.

[Strathmore.ca/StompingRace](https://www.strathmore.ca/StompingRace)

It's hot!

And the summer heat can be dangerous for our fur-coated friends.



Register today! Summer Camps.

We've got some fun and safe alternatives to boredom for ages 4 to 12 with our summer camps! Check out the themes of each week and register your child for their favourite theme, or register in all the weeks for a fun-filled summer!

For more information, visit our website [Strathmore.ca/Recreation](https://www.strathmore.ca/Recreation). For registration, you can register for camps through your PerfectMind account. Got questions? Give us a call at 403-361-2121.

Theme	Date
Splash and Dash (Swim Lessons)	July 27 to 31, 2026
Neon Days	Aug 4 to 7, 2026
Balls and More	Aug 10 to 14, 2026
Olympic Days	Aug 17 to 21, 2026
NEW* Fencing Camp (Ares Pentathlon & Fencing)	Aug 24 to 28, 2026
Let's Celebrate	Aug 24 to 27, 2026

You can make a difference.

Recruitment is now open for paid-on-call firefighters. These community members step up to protect their neighbours when it matters most. Whether you're a parent, student, tradesperson, or small business owner, you could be the next to answer the call. You don't need to be a superhero. You don't have to quit your day job.

All you need is an interest in making a difference.

Apply today:

- 403-934-3022
- firehall@strathmore.ca
- [Strathmore.ca/PaidOnCall](https://www.strathmore.ca/PaidOnCall)