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Provincial bound

Page 10



Swimming success

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# Intermunicipal collaboration

IOHN WATSON

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Town of Strathmore discussed the idea to develop a voluntary intermunicipal collaboration framework (ICF) with the villages of Standard, Hussar, and Rockyford during the March 12 special council meeting.

The recommendation by town administration was that they be directed to develop a Terms of Reference to guide the preparation of the ICF between the communities.

Council members from the Town of Strathmore, Village of Rockyford, Village of Standard, and Village of Hussar recently participated in a regional collaboration workshop where ideas were explored for various opportunities and challenges within the local region.

A Voluntary ICF allows the Town of Strathmore to partner with other municipalities in order to provide cost efficient services where possible.

"For the last couple of years, we have been doing some assistance with street sweeping for one of the villages, so anytime we can do a service like that it can reduce our per capita costs," said Jamie Dugdale, director of infrastructure, operations and development services with the Town of Strathmore. "Another example is we look at how we can share large facilities and how we can make sure those costs are shared rather than just borne by one municipality."

Mayor Pat Fule confirmed with Dugdale during the meeting for clarification to the rest of council, this practice took place last spring as well which became a source of revenue for the town overall.

Dugdale estimated town administration would utilize the ICF recently developed with Wheatland County as a template to build off of in order to streamline the process with the other participating municipalities.

Continued on Page 4



# **Shining stars**

Seven-year-old Brooklyn and six-year-old Emlyn had a blast at the sixth annual St. Patrick's Day Jelly Bean Dance on March 14 at the Strathmore Civic Centre. Over 40 volunteers were involved with the event, which was hosted by the Strathmore Parents Association of Expressions. See Page 9 for more Joe Lepage Photo





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2025 Mixed Bonspiel

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# **Hurry hard**

Local curling teams, Team Garnett and Team Cammer, faced off in the quarter-final of the Men's Bonspiel on March 15, hosted by the Strathmore and District Curling Club. The 36-team bonspiel was held

Joe Lepage Photos

# **Fire Department, Holy Cross Collegiate smash previous** annual food drive records

IOHN WATSON

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Strathmore Fire Department and Holy Cross Collegiate school smashed their previous records this year during the third annual food drive, raising 5,546.15 pounds for the Wheatland County Food Bank.

Engaging in a friendly competition, the Fire Department continued their annual challenge to Holy Cross to see which of the two could gather more donations for the local food bank.

In addition to the food donations, a total of \$220 was raised in cash donations between the two efforts.

The fire department maintained their win streak, as Holy Cross students were able to raise 674.2 pounds of food, while the rest was attributed to the fire de-

"This year, we got some unexpected help from a few other individuals. We had the Standard RCMP and FCSS helping; we also had our operations team from the town help out both days as well," said David Sturgeon, Strathmore fire chief. "It was amazing - we did the collection and then just how many people came in the days after just to drop off (donations) at the fire hall was incredible. We are very appreciative of that and obviously it shows how willing the residents are to donate and how generous everyone is in town."

Despite the landslide victory, the Fire Department does not wish to detract Holy Cross from trying again next year to best them, nor take away from the achievement of raising as many donations as they did.

In 2023, the drive raised 4,667 pounds of food donated to the local food bank. Last year, the challenge amounted to 4,735 pounds.

As the drive has now concluded, the students of Holy Cross Collegiate will be invited to participate in a lunch provided by the Fire Department to celebrate their efforts and their achievement through the food drive.

"We kind of already have some ideas for next year and so this year being the third year, we have hit everywhere in town now. We did it by different subdivisions to spread it out over three years. Next year, we might change it up," said Sturgeon. "We are kind of talking about a friendly competition between subdivisions if we can make it happen, but it might be too early to say."

The goal for future years will be to begin including more people and more organizations in order to keep it growing as best as possible.

Though he does not speak for the food bank, Sturgeon iterated the current estimate is the donations gathered through the drive will last roughly until September.

"Obviously, we are very pleased; it encourages the student leadership, especially during our season of Lent and a culture of giving and almsgiving and helping others in need and we are just glad that as a school we can do this," added Laverne Evans, principal of Holy Cross Collegiate. "In partnership with the fire hall, it is always an annual tradition and it is fun to team up with them in a little friendly competition to help those in need."





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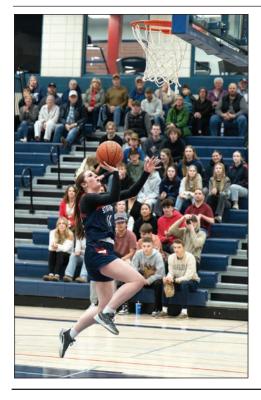




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# Spartan success

Strathmore Spartans sity boys and girls basketball teams opened their zone championship at Strathmore High School. The Lady Spartans lost their first game 47-36 on March 12, but rebounded to win the consolation final over the week-Meanwhile, the boys beat Olds 100-37 on March 11, before finishing second in the zone and punching their ticket to the 3A provincial championship in Fort McMurray March 20-22.

### **Joe Lepage Photos**

# Community Futures Wild Rose hosts second Streamlining Success workshop of year

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Community Futures Wild Rose hosted a Streamlining Success workshop, March 13, offering advice and strategies surrounding operations, time management and efficiency for small businesses

"We decided to run this course (as) a direct result of a survey we did with the business owners within our region. We asked them what type of training they were looking for, and one of them that they identified that they were looking for operational efficiency and time management skills training," said Chantale Sangster, executive director of Community Futures Wild Rose.

This time around, the program saw five participants, each of whom opted to participate online. Sangster added typical attendance numbers for similar programs ranges from five to 14 people

Trisha Breault, community economic development coordinator, said participants are surveyed at the end of each session for their feedback.

"The feedback for this one has been good in that it has helped them put into perspective how they can either delegate different things or different time management skills and how to use them in their work, but also day to day," said Breault. "You give them lots of tools that are free online that can help them organize and become more efficient and be better at time management by utilizing those online platforms."

The Streamlining Success workshop has been run by Community Futures Wild Rose twice so far this year. The first workshop took place in January.

Following the March session, the next

workshop this year will be scheduled to take place in the fall. The goal being to make the course as accessible as possible for those who are interested.

"There are different time management techniques – we go through different best practices, we go through best practices in staying on top of things, different digital tools that they can use to help streamline their day-to-day operations," said Sangster. "We review the techniques and how to use them and then how they can integrate them, and we try and get them thinking about how they can integrate these things daily to make their lives a little easier and help with their work-life balance."

Skills taught and demonstrated

through the Streamlining Success workshop were explained to be applicable to more than just the workplace, but rather as well to any participant's daily life outside of work.

Sessions through Community Futures are free to attend for interested parties, and in person attendees will be treated to lunch as part of the event.

More information regarding the Streamlining Success workshop, as well as others offered by Community Futures Wild Rose is available through their website. Following a given session, participants are also directed to additional online learning, or are able to ask questions directly to Community Futures staff.



Can drinking fewer soft drinks reduce menstrual problems in young women? Research carried out with 1800 Chinese university undergraduate women found that nearly half suffered from dysmenorrhea which included high menstrual flow, cramping and pain. It was found that dysmenorrhea was 24% higher among soft drink consumers. If they drank less soft drinks, menstrual problems also reduced. Combine this with drinking more coffee provided greater improvement.

Since sports gambling has been legalized in Canada, it has created many addiction, mental health and financial problems. The reputable medical journal, *The Lancet*, has called gambling "an expanding public health threat". It is estimated that the risk of problem gambling is 7% among adults and 15% among youth 18 to 34. If you feel your gambling is becoming a problem for you and your family, seek professional help.

It is estimated that secondhand smoke causes between 1100 and 7800 deaths each year in Canada. You may often hear "she never smoked a day in her life but has lung cancer!". Secondhand smoke can cause lung cancer, nasal sinus cancer and many respiratory diseases. In pregnancy it can cause low birth weights, Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) and miscarriages.

The risk of developing a shingles infection increases with age and it is recommended that all those over 50 get their 2 doses of shingles vaccine.

It gives protection for about 7 years in people with healthy immune systems and it is 97% effective.

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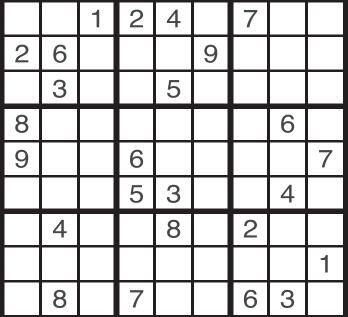
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Thought for the Week

Could it be that a child's life is like a piece of paper on which every passerby leaves a mark?



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# Spurs take part in public speaking

SARA WALDNER

Strathmore Rusty Spurs Club Reporter

Strathmore Rusty Spurs 4-H Club members attended the 4-H District Public Speaking event on March 8 at the Strathmore Civic Centre.

Members who attended were Preston, a junior speaker; Sydney, a senior presenter; and Abby and Sara, who were senior speakers.

Jessica attended as a Master of Ceremonies in the junior room. Sydney won first place in Senior Presentations and Abby won first place in Senior Speeches; both will be moving on to Regional Public Speaking held at the Strathmore Civic Centre on March 22 at 9 a.m.

The Rusty Spurs will also hold a bottle drive fundraiser on March 30 starting around 2 p.m. Members of the club will go around the Town of Strathmore, going door to door, picking up pop bottles. If you want to donate but you are unable to be at home that day, contact the Rusty Spurs on their Facebook or Instagram pages to make arrangements.

As always, make sure to follow the Strathmore Rusty Spurs on Facebook and Instagram to stay updated on the club's activities and fundraisers.

# 4-H speakers set to shine

KRISTA MCINNIS Reed Ranch 4-H Club

Young leaders from across the region will take center stage at the 4-H Regional Public Speaking Competition on March 22 at the Strathmore Civic Center.

This highly anticipated event will showcase the public speaking talents of local 4-H members from Strathmore Rusty Spurs 4-H Horse Club and the Crowfoot 4-H Multi Club.

Competitors will deliver prepared speeches, impromptu responses, and engaging presentations on a variety of topics, including ADHD, Lupus, sports medicine and rodeo, Canada's inflation, and West Nile Virus in horses.

Public speaking is a cornerstone of the 4-H program, helping members develop confidence, leadership, and communication skills that last a lifetime. The event is free to attend,

and the community is encouraged to come out and support these talented

Come cheer on the next generation of leaders as they inform, inspire, and impress.

# Strathmore to develop ICF with Hussar, Standard, Rockyford

Continued from Page 3

"We would craft an initial Terms of Reference with the other administrations, then we would come back and work probably a joint meeting of the councils," said CAO Kevin Scoble. "The ultimate effort will depend on how much the councils want to populate it. It could be three or four items, it could be 10 or 12, so ultimately it will be the councils that decide how much work goes into it until conclusion."

The Terms of Reference for the ICF will be developed using recent examples and will receive input from applicable departments within town administration as required.

An ICF may describe services that benefit residents in more than one of the participating municipalities, identify which municipality is responsible for providing which services, outline how services will be funded and delivered, and include a process for resolving disputes while the framework is in effect.

Coun. Jason Montgomery motioned for council to direct staff to begin development of the ICF as recommended by administration in the agenda. The motion was carried unanimously by coun-

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# Lakes of Muirfield acquired by Chapel Rock Developments

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Lakes of Muirfield, a stretch of property in Lyalta, has been purchased by Chapel Rock Developments and Winchester Builders.

Rights to buy the Lakes of Muirfield residential lands were awarded by Wheatland County. Paul Bergmann, president of Chapel Rock Developments, said his team will be overseeing developments going forward.

"This is a long, storied subdivision that surrounds a golf course and after a few problems during COVID-19 ... the county ended up with the development," said Bergmann. "(They) realized they were probably the wrong people to be shepherding this along, and so they put a request out for a developer and we heard about it through the grapevine."

He added Chapel Rock Developments and Wheatland County are still in the process of finalizing discussions surrounding the purchase and development agreements, as well as other associated documentation.

The curation of builders who will be engaged in construction efforts has seen some returning teams from the previous developer, however, this has not been universal. Some have not been asked to come back, while new teams have been selected to be engaged in the project.

"We want to make sure that whatever we do in terms of builders, they are good quality builders and we do not want to have just any builders in there. We have been pretty particular about who we have invited in," said Bergmann. "We have got what we believe to be a good group of seven or eight builders who will all be working to make this community - bring it back to life, so to speak."

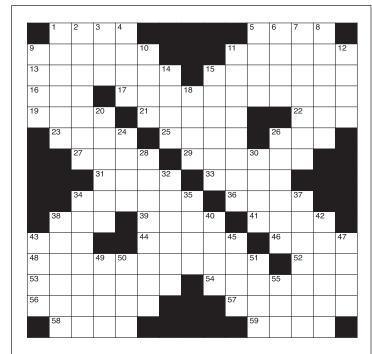
Bergmann added his attention was drawn to the Lakes of Muirfield as an opportunity to reinvigorate a project with "high quality architectural controls."

The community is a semi-estate region which will see the development of homes leaning more towards that of luxury. Prices upon home completion are estimated to be in the range of \$800,000 and above.

"This is not vinyl siding and that sort of level of

build, although there is a place for that. This is a nicer subdivision and it is a rare gem to find something in tact where there (are) 300 lots that will be coming online before we are finished," he said. "This is a multi-year project and that is a big part of what drew me to it because I have been an inner-city builder, I have built tract housing in Fort McMurray, but rarely do you get an opportunity to have an impact on an entire community like we do with Lakes of Muirfield."

Foundational construction efforts are set to begin in the spring as the localized area structure plan is addressed. Following this, the first foundations of houses are anticipated to be started in August.



# MPC approves three development permit applications

IOHN WATSON

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Wheatland County Municipal Planning Commission approved three development permit applications during the March 11 meeting.

Development Permit application DP 2024-128 proposed a recreational/leisure vehicle storage and commercial storage business intended to secure indoor storage for recreational and leisure vehicles including boats, business equipment, tools, inventory, and cars.

The application suggested the site would include a gated perimeter fence with passcode protection and 24/7 controlled access for customers.

Administrative operations for the business would be conducted from a home office located within a residence on an adjacent lot.

The proposed location is approximately 3.2 kilometers south of Strathmore, and 1.2 kilometers north of Township Road 234, on the west side of Highway 817.

A total of 50 spaces for recreational vehicles will be made available upon the opening of the business to the public.

The proposed commercial storage area is to include eight weather-resistant pods, being shipping containers, for the storage of business equipment, tools, or inventory.

The Municipal Planning Commission approved the development permit application subject to several conditions with no variances about the land use bylaw granted to the applicant.

Development Permit application DP 2025-008 proposed addressing three existing accessory buildings that are currently non-compliant with the land use bylaw on the subject lands.

This is located within the Hamlet of Nightingale on the east side of Range Road 245, 608 meters north of Highway 564.

A compliance review indicated the presence of an existing garage that requires a development permit, as well as a shed and an animal shelter.

Both of these subsequent buildings do not meet required setbacks outlined in the land use bylaw.

Administration recommended the Municipal Planning Commission grant variances to the shed and animal shelter, as well as the required development permit for the garage.

Should the Municipal Planning Commission have decided not to grant the permit and variances, the buildings would have been required to be removed from the property entirely, or moved to within boundaries outlined by the land use bylaw.

Approval of the variances took into consideration the lack of concerns raised by adjacent landowners or internal staff.

Development Permit application DP 2025-013 proposed the construction of a one-bedroom residential unit on the second floor of a building currently under construction in an established business park.

The residential suite was suggested to be utilized for the provision of onsite security for the principal business located on the same lot.

A development permit was issued in May 2024 for an automotive and equipment services business which permitted the construction of two buildings. The residential unit is proposed to be added to the northernmost building which also includes a showroom, repair shop, and automotive parts sales.

As per local building code requirements, due to the combination of proposed uses, plans submitted for the building permit for the overall structure also included a two-hour fire separation for the suite.

Administration had recommended the development permit application be approved subject to several conditions with no variances to be granted about the land use bylaw.

More information regarding each approved permit is publicly available via the Municipal Planning Commissions meeting agenda for March 11.

### **CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. Take heed
- 5. One's superior
- 9. Prepped meat 11. Tighten anew
- 13. Type of textile fiber
- 15. Animalistic
- 16. When you hope to get somewhere
- 17. Offender
- 19. Former NYC mayor Ed
- 21. Type of cryptocurrency 22. Mauna , Hawaiian volcano
- 23. Herring-like fish
- 25. Popular PBS program
- 26. Congressman (abbr.) 27. Flightless Australian birds
- 29. Defrosted
- 31. Prior Yankee sensation Kevin

- 33. Nasal mucus
- 34. Some are southern 36. A place to construct
- 38. Popular beer brand
- 39. Shouts of farewell
- 41. Network of nerves
- 43. Make a mistake 44. Showed old movie
- 46. Body parts
- 48. A divisor
- 52. Congressional investigatory body 53. Papers
- 54. Most unnatural
- 56. Judge the worth of something 57. Makes sounds while sleeping
- 58. Which
- 59. Hungarian Violinist

## **CLUES DOWN**

- 1. Pages
- 2. Head pain
- 3 A loud utterance 4. Large brown seaweed
- 5. Hulu's chef Carmine
- 6. Greek mountain
- 7. Made final
- 8. Bar
- 9. Tai subgroup 10. What you eat
- 11. Teaches again 12. Small constellation
- 14. Type of berry
- 15. Cows fattened for meat
- 18. A way to hoof it
- 20. Exaggerated a role 24. About two

- 26. Long upholstered seat 28. What employees earn
- 30. Fiber from a coconut husk
- 32. Digits
- 34. Polish by rubbing 35. Liquid body substances
- 37. Furniture with open shelves
- 38. Edible part of a chicken
- 40. Satisfy
- 42. Tool used to remove
- 43. Icelandic poems 45. Swiss village
- 47. Drunks
- 49. Evergreen plant genus 50. Light precipitation
- 51. Ribosomal ribonucleic acid 55. An informal debt instrument



**STRATHMORE** 

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# Tyrrell Riding Academy successful in Las Vegas at Worlds Qualifier

JOHN WATSON

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Tyrrell Riding Academy recently took several of its students to compete in Las Vegas at a World's qualifier event for team cattle penning and sorting.

Jessica Tyrrell, owner and coach of the Tyrrell Riding Academy, explained each member of the team who participated in the event took home at least one placement, if not several over the course of the competition.

Ultimately, the goal is for members of the team and stu-

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dents to qualify for the World's competition in Louisiana which will take place in October.

Team cattle penning is a sport which challenges a team of riders on horseback to herd three specifically numbered cows from a herd of 30 into a pen within the arena in under 60 seconds.

'Our horses are always in a full-time training program, as well as our kids - we run a pretty big lesson program," said Tyrrell. "The kids were training up to three or four days per week ... and the horses, probably about the same."

The team that went to Las Vegas consisted of Cruz Jordan (13), Helen Tyrrell, Megan Bundas, Jessica Tyrrell, Jason Cramer, Leah Huxted (9), and Izzy Cramer

Placement for winning the event goes to the team that is able to complete the objective in the fastest time. Qualification for Worlds requires attendance at a certain number of sanctioned shows in order to accumulate points towards qualification. Entry is permitted once a designated threshold is achieved.

"We have a few more shows we need to attend that we have planned over the summer, and that will get us there ... everybody is very excited, and we are pretty proud of our horses and our riders," said Tyrrell. "Our next competition is at the end of this month coming up here. (Last) week, we gave all of our horses a week off, but (now) we are right back at it."

Tyrrell added experience and practice is key to developing the skills for the sport. Regular practices at home as well as attendance at local shows provide opportunities to develop.

During competitions, youth and adult riders are designated separately for some events, while for others, age disparity is not considered when assembling a team.

"This was our first time in Vegas. We have competed at Stampedes and Canadian Nationals, Canadian Regionals and stuff like that, and we have also gone down to Montana too," said Tyrrell.

The next Worlds qualifying show will take place in to Claresholm in April.





# **Hawks** chase medal

The Holy Cross Collegiate Hawks JV basketball team hosted Strathcona Tweedmuir for the bronze medal on March 10 at the school. Despite a close game, the Hawks closed out their season with a four-point

Joe Lepage Photos





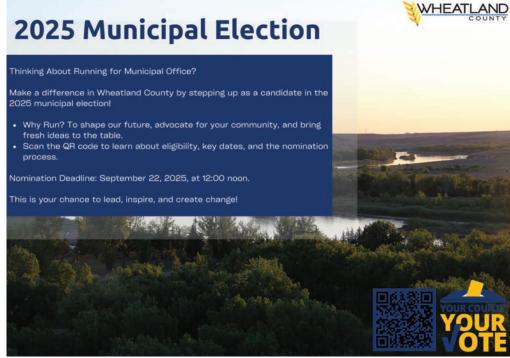
# Upcoming Meetings

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.

March 27, 2025 | 9 a.m. April 1, 2025 | 9 a.m. April 2, 2025 | 9 a.m.

**Committee of the Whole Council Meeting Agricultural Service Board** 

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



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WE'RE HIRING!





# Kings to host annual spring camp

IOHN WATSON

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Agra Risk Wheatland Kings are soon to be hosting their annual spring camp, both for the betterment of their existing roster, and to scout potential new players for the upcoming fall season.

This year, the camp will be taking place May 3-4. Cody Holdaway, general manager for the Kings explained the camp is able to be hosted earlier than normal this year because they are hosting it at the Strath-

more Family Centre.

"We pushed it ahead into early May just strictly for the fact that we are able to host it at home this year instead of going out to Chestermere before they take out the ice in Strathmore," he said. "We are looking for any 2005 to 2009 born players who think they might want to play for us or think they have a shot on making our team. It is a great way to get identified by our coaches and scouting

Holdaway explained the camp is open to anyone who wishes to register; however, they are looking for "top tier" talent who may become a valuable asset once the new season kicks off.

The camp will consist largely of scrimmages and drills between participating players. Scouts for the Kings will be present and watching in order to begin the process of building the roster they would like to see ready for the fall.

Having placed second overall in the Southern Division this past season, the hope is to attract as much new, young talent as possible and build a team ready to go for the championship.

"I think I dubbed this season the 'foundation season.' This year was really a new era for Wheatland Kings hockey and next year it is time to turn

the page, and Chapter 2 is only going to get better," said

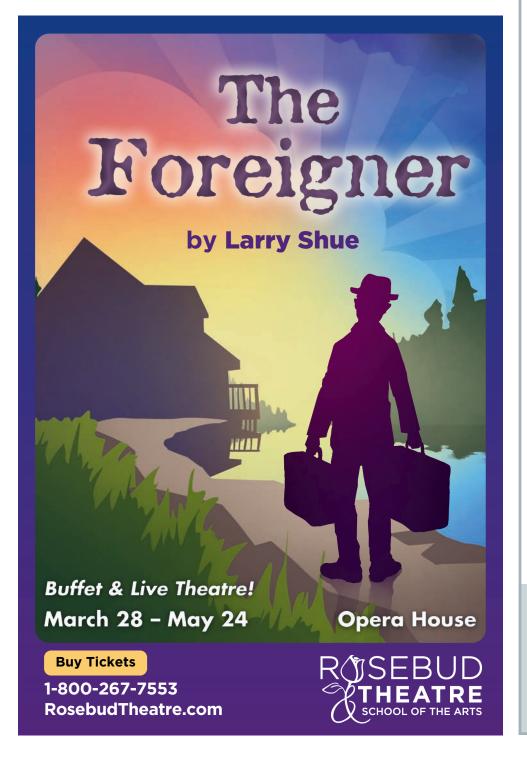
Holdaway. "Generally, we are looking for about 50 or 60 kids, (which) is what we usually have coming out. Unfortunately, we have no goalie spots remaining, but we are still looking for a couple more forwards, some defense, and just some kids who think they

have what it takes to be a King."

The camp may be considered a tryout of sorts for coaches and scouts to identify players to invite back to the main camp, which will be hosted shortly prior to the start of the regular season in order to determine the final roster.

Several players are graduating out of eligibility to play in the Heritage Junior Hockey League, having aged out. These include Tegan Skehar, Kobe Gosling and Lachlan Stewart.

Some alumni occasionally come out to assist with drills and to be bodies on the ice, also serving as examples to rookie and returning players alike.



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# **Bunny Bash!**

The Strathmore Minor Ringette Association hosted their Zone 2 Bunny Bash Tournament March 15-16 at the Strathmore Family Centre. The Strathmore Ice Wildcats (Step 1) and the Strathmore Ice Bulls (Step 2) hosted Foothills and Airdrie respectively on March 15.

Joe Lepage Photos









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# County passes signing authorities bylaw

JOHN WATSON

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Wheatland County council discussed Bylaw 2025-01, being their Signing Authorities Bylaw, during the March 4 regular meeting, which aims to clarify and centralize how county documents are signed.

The bylaw in question was written to ensure county documents are in compliance with the Municipal Government Act and other enactments of its policies, and designates the reeve (or deputy reeve depending on circumstance) and the CAO as primary signatories for bylaws, minutes, cheques, and other negotiable instruments.

"Each year during the organizational meeting, signing authorities must be set. This particular bylaw, the intent will be to prevent the need for having to approve those signing authorities each year, and also extend a broader sense to the aspect of the signing authority that is delegated by council to the CAO and ultimately to staff," said Cory Adamson, general manager of corporate and financial services. "While the CAO bylaw does provide delegation authority, this bylaw refines that portion of the authority for signatories and ensures consistency."

Adamson explained the goal of the bylaw is to reduce risk and increase accountability by

signatories

Provisions noted in the bylaw include methods of signatures that can be used depending on what they are needed for, the validity of the signatures – particularly for digital signatures, role-based tolerances and delegation.

Signing authorities for multiple document types within the county are also outlined and defined within the bylaw.

Benefits of the bylaw are defined in council's meeting agenda as serving to streamline processes, ensure practices are consistent and compliant both with the MGA and County policies, and to reduce administrative burden by establishing long-term signatories based on role.

Council will no longer be required to formally approve signing authorities annually at the organizational meeting.

Following Adamson's presentation, Coun. Donna Biggar motioned immediately for first reading of the bylaw without further discussion or debate.

This motion was passed unanimously by council. Coun. Tom Ikert motioned for second reading, which was subsequently also passed unanimously.

Biggar motioned for council to grant permission to hold third and final reading, followed by Ikert motioning to hold third reading. These were also both passed unanimously.











# Shake your shamrocks!

The Strathmore Parents Association of Expressions hosted the sixth annual St. Patrick's Day Jelly Bean Dance on March 14 at the Strathmore Civic Centre. The event, "Shake Your Shamrock," also featured a concession, prizes, face painting and games.

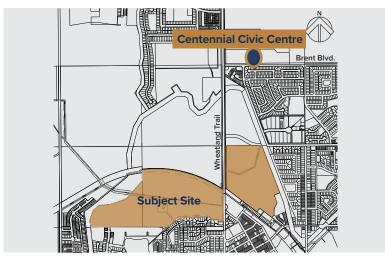
Joe Lepage Photos



# Minor Amendment to the WestCreek Area Structure Plan and Phase 1 Land Use Update

# **OPEN HOUSE**

March 27, 2025 – 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the Centennial Civic Centre - East Hall 120 Brent Blvd, Strathmore, AB T1P 1E9



Join us for the Minor Amendment to the WestCreek Area Structure Plan and Phase 1 Land Use Update Open House.

There will be opportunities to review materials, speak with the project team, town representatives, and provide your feedback.



For more information please check our website https://arcadisengage.com/







Strathmore's own Charlie Yorston qualified for the Jr. Canadian National/ Olympic Trials.

> Photo Courtesy of Renee Kardash

# Looking to make a splash

MELISSA PICHE
Times Contributor

A dedicated swimmer since the age of five, Charlie Yorston has been making significant waves in the competitive swimming scene.

As a member of the Strathmore Silver Sharks Swim Club, her commitment and hard work have led to remarkable achievements, including qualifying for the Jr. Canadian National/Olympic Trials.

Her exceptional performance at the 2024 RE/MAX Elk Valley Fall Blast in B.C. qualified her for provincials.

At the 2024 RE/MAX Elk Valley Fall Blast in B.C., she secured first place in all her events, including the 50-metre butterfly, 50-metre freestyle, 100-metre breaststroke, 200-metre individual medley, 50-metre backstroke and 50-metre breaststroke.

"Training every single day, multiple times a day," said Yorston of her vigorous training schedule and the dedication she puts forth to qualify for bigger events

Yorston's journey in swimming began over a decade ago, sparked by regular visits to the local pool with her brother.

Her daily routine typically involves morning and afternoon training sessions balanced with her school commitments. She usually trains six days a week, taking Sundays off if she's not competing.

In the past year, Yorston faced a significant challenge when she broke her ankle sidelining her for almost an entire season. Through dedicated physiotherapy and unwavering determination, she made a strong comeback showcasing her resilience and passion for the sport.

"Seeing my progress every single day and seeing how much stronger and faster I've been getting pushes me to want to know how good I can get," she said

Looking ahead Yorston has her sights set on the provincial championships March 20-23. Her recent qualifying times have also opened the door to the Junior Olympic trials marking a significant milestone in her swimming career. Beyond these immediate goals she aspires to swim at the university level and ultimately represent Canada at the 2028 Olympics in Los Angeles.

Yorston's journey is supported by a dedicated coaching team including her main coach Jessica Williams-Kathol who has been instrumental in her development. The Strathmore Silver Sharks Swim Club, under the guidance of head coach Lexi Sidorenko, continues to provide a nurturing environment for swimmers like Yorston to thrive.





# Zone battle

The Strathmore High School Spartans junior varsity boys basketball team defeated the Canmore Wolverines 79-53 during the 3A zones tournament on March 14. The Spartans finished the season with a third place showing, while the JV girls finished in second place in the zone.

Joe Lepage Photos





15 school projects in southern Alberta



New Alberta Sheriffs team to crack down on cross-border crime



More training for rural doctors



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Realigning and connecting Highways 2 and 3



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# The Addams Family set to hit the stage

MELISSA PICHE

Times Contributor

The Strathmore Theatre Players Guild is gearing up to entertain audiences with their upcoming production of *The Addams Family*, opening March 21 at The Hope Community Covenant Church.

The production promises a blend of catchy songs, lively dance numbers and heartfelt story-telling

The musical, which was chosen based on community votes, was a natural pick for the guild. Director Robert Cole shared that *The Addams Family* stood out as a crowd favourite after selections were narrowed down from options provided by Broadway Across Canada and similar licensing companies.

The cast, spanning ages 16 to 99, brings together a diverse group of talent. The company has enjoyed strong involvement from both seasoned actors and new faces.

"The auditions took two and a half, three days," said Cole. "It was one of our biggest auditions ever. We've been going pretty much non-stop for the past week, and we'll continue that pace leading up to opening night. We're taking breaks to preserve everyone's voices, but otherwise we've been hard at work."

The production is also benefiting from dedicated support behind the scenes. Students from Holy Cross Collegiate, which doesn't have its own drama program, are gaining valuable experience by assisting with stage management, props and set design – a partnership that allows them to earn school credit.

In an exciting addition, the guild is offering a captioned performance on March 29 for audience



The Addams Family is set to open March 21 at The Hope Community Covenant Church.

**Photo Courtesy of Dan Mackenzie** 

members who are hearing impaired.

"It's something new for us, but we're thrilled to make our production more accessible." Cole said.

The show schedule includes 7:30 p.m. evening performances on March 21-22, 27-29 as well as April 3-5. Matinee performances will run on March 23 and March 30 at 2:30 p.m.

Cole mentioned that the group is planning a fall performance with audition dates to be announced on their social media channels or website.

Tickets and additional details can be found on the Strathmore Theatre Players Guild's website (www.strathmoreplayers.ca).

"We're excited to share this fun heart-warming story with our community," said Cole. "It's a love story – and we can't wait for people to experience it"





# Shining performance

Steve Pineo and his accompanying band performed to an engaging audience on March 15 at the Strathmore United Church closing out the seventh season for the Arts on 817 concert series. Pineo promised big-band energy and that is exactly what the music goers heard. Stay tuned for information on the eighth season for the Arts on 817, which promises to feature some topnotch musical enter-

Melissa Piche Photos



# Town to explore future snow removal options for Parklane Way

JOHN WATSON

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Town of Strathmore will consider the addition of Parklane Way to its snow removal plans prior to the upcoming election.

During the special council meeting, March 12, a recommendation was brought before council to accept a petition regarding the priority of snow removal for Parklane Way as information.

Town administration received a petition containing 80 signatures, Feb. 12, requesting Parklane Way be added as a priority roadway to the Town of Strathmore's snow removal policy.

The petition submitted to the town was considered insufficient under the requirements dictated by the Municipal Government Act, as signatures throughout the petition were not witnessed, the petition did not have each page containing an identical statement of the purpose of the petition, not all signatures present were from local electors, and the petition was not signed by 10 per cent of the local population.

A delegation was heard during the March 12 meeting of council regarding the issue suggested by the petition. Subsequently, Coun. Jason Montgomery motioned for the topic to appear again before council prior to the end of their term.

Marilyn Galvin, president of Lambert Village, addressed council, speaking to the difficulties the seniors' community has faced regarding snow removal.

"When it snows, these people can't drive in there. Myself alone, I got stuck twice and it is 100 feet. You watch the graders go by the road all the time and all it would take is one swipe because all they would have to do is push it all to the side," she said. "This is the only entrance to this building, not like the other senior homes in Strathmore; they have at least two in all of them. If we had another entrance, it might be a little different."

Despite hiring a landscaping company to clear the

snow, Galvin said the company would not complete the snow removal, citing they were not allowed to for that particular stretch.

Being a seniors' community, she added proper snow removal is critical not simply for ease of access for residents, but also in times of emergency when an ambulance is required to be in and out of the community with haste.

"It is very important to me that the Town of Strathmore (does) its utmost - we do strive to provide good customer service and that is the top priority for me a lot of the time," said Montgomery. "At the very least, what we can do is look at this idea and figure out the details and figure out what it is going

More information will be provided to and discussed by council by or before the Sept. 17, regular meeting. The motion for information about the issue to be brought before council was voted in favour unanimously.

# Climate resiliency and environmental stewardship

Town of Strathmore

Strathmore has always been a place where people take care of what matters - our families, our neighbours, and our community. That means not just planning for tomorrow, but ensuring the best of Strathmore is preserved for generations to come. A key part of that commitment is managing our natural spaces wisely and preparing for future challenges, so the town can continue to grow while also protecting what makes it such a great place to live.

Recent years have shown how quickly circumstances can change and how important it is to be ready. Last summer, when Calgary's water main break led to

widespread restrictions, Strathmore residents stepped up, reducing water consumption by 25 per cent to do our part. This kind of collective effort shows the strength of our community, but it also highlights why proactive planning matters. That's why the town continues to invest in infrastructure that supports water security, including the Water Reservoir System Upgrade and the acquisition of an additional water license critical steps in making sure Strathmore has the capacity it needs for the future.

Managing water is just one piece of the bigger picture. As you know, Strathmore is growing, and with that growth comes the responsibility to manage resources, infrastructure, and public spaces in a way that ensures long-term sustainability. In 2024, residents diverted more than 1,000 tonnes of organic waste and 350 tonnes of recyclables from the landfill - an important step in reducing our environmental footprint. The town is also upgrading the Stormwater Master Plan and Offsite Levy Bylaw to

support responsible development and will help ensure the community is prepared for future needs.

Small changes can make a big difference over time. The town is investing in a recirculation system for the Strathmore Spray Park, bringing it in line with other communities that use "closed loop" systems to recycle water. This upgrade may allow our

spray park to remain open during water shortages, depending on the stage of the water restriction. The new system will collect, filter, and reuse water from the park's features, preventing potable water from being wasted while still providing a fun space for families to enjoy. Kinsmen Park, one of our town's most popular gathering places is another focus. This year, the town will begin a tree replacement design study to ensure it remains a vibrant green space for years to come. Managing tree growth and planning for future planting is a practical step to preserving Strathmore's outdoor spaces and natural beauty.

Strathmore's approach to environmental stewardship isn't about making sweeping changes or declarations - it's about taking smart, sensible steps that protect what we have while supporting the town's long-term goals. By managing our water supply responsibly,

maintaining our parks and green spaces, and ensuring waste is handled efficiently, we're not only preserving the best of Strathmore but also strengthening our ability to adapt to future chal-

Strathmore's success is built on smart planning and strong community values. Our commitment to climate resiliency and environ-

mental stewardship ensures we protect what we have today, and ensures we keep our town a great place to call home.

(At the beginning of each term, council sets the course for the future by adopting a Strategic Plan - a guiding blueprint that charts priorities and directs resources. This plan outlines six key strategic priorities that influence decision-making throughout the term. In the coming weeks, Mayor Pat Fule will provide insights into each of Strathmore's strategic priorities, reflecting on both achievements and challenges along the way.)





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# **Fantastic festival returns**

MELISSA PICHE
Times Contributor

The Strathmore Performing Arts Festival is back, promising 10 full days of music, entertainment and community spirit beginning on March 26.

Now in its 7th year, the festival has seen remarkable growth since its inception with new families joining the community and eager to participate.

Festival President LoraLee Laycock shared her excitement about the festival's expansion.

"This is our highest number of entries," she said, stating the enrollment is close to 480. "Lots of interest – we have a few new teachers that have moved to the community who are sending their students to participate in festivals, which is always a nice bump for the enrollment."

Among these are categories designed to be more inclusive ensuring everyone has a chance to participate.

With the festival's growth comes a need for more volunteers. Laycock stressed that volunteer roles are simple yet vital to ensuring everything runs smoothly.

"People shouldn't be afraid to step in – we provide plenty of guidance," she said. "Even if you've never volunteered before we make it easy and welcoming."

If anyone would like to volunteer for this festival or for future festivals they are encouraged to email (strathmorepaf@gmail. com).

The final concert for the festival is on April 9 at the Hope Community Church at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$5 per person or \$10 per family.

"It's always a well-attended evening," said Laycock of the final concert. "We have

so many students nominated to perform that it's a great showcase of local talent. We've seen such wonderful support from the Strathmore community."

Laycock stressed the gratitude of donations and community support, which is the foundation behind the festival.

"The festival can't run without donations from local businesses and also families and people who want to support this movement going forward," said Laycock. "It's amazing to see the arts becoming a bigger part of our town, especially for young people."

For more information on the Strathmore Performing Arts Festival, visit their website (www.strathmorepaf.com).



# **Investing in Alberta**

CHANTELLE DE JONGE Chestermere-Strathmore MLA

Exciting Budget 2025 announcements are here – read below to learn about the major investments coming to our communities!

Alberta's population is growing at an unprecedented pace, and that means more students are filling classrooms across the province. To keep up with this rising enrolment, Alberta's government is making the largest-ever investment in school construction – an \$8.6 billion commitment to build up to 90 new schools, renovate 24 existing schools, and provide additional modular classrooms. This bold plan will create more than 200,000 new student spaces over the next seven years, ensuring Alberta's fastest-growing communities have the schools they need.

A key part of this strategy is accelerating school construction where it is needed most. As a result of this new funding approach, 11 previously announced school projects are moving directly from the design phase to full construction funding. These projects will add more than 12,000 new student spaces, helping to relieve pressure in high-growth communities.

I am incredibly proud to announce that the Rocky View Public K-9 School in Dawson is one of the 11 schools benefiting from this initiative. In addition, we've secured design funding for a new Rocky View Public High School in Chelsea – two significant victories for our constituency. This is in addition to the Catholic K-9 School in Dawson, which was funded in Budget 2024 and will begin construction this year. As a passionate advocate for our students and educational infrastructure, I have been relentless in pushing for these vital investments. These new schools will not only enhance educational opportunities but will also serve as pillars of growth for our community.

Our commitment to building stronger communities extends beyond the classroom. We are also investing in key infrastructure that will support the vibrancy and economic growth of our region.

I am so excited to share a major milestone for our constituency: a \$5 million investment in the Strathmore and Area Agricultural Society for the construction of the Western Events and Cultural Centre (WECC) in Strathmore, under the Arts, Sports and Recreation Program. This is a project I have tirelessly championed for over a year, advocating on its behalf at every level of

government. I've worked closely with the Ag Society, arranged meetings with ministers and the premier, and engaged with key decision-makers to ensure this remarkable initiative received the attention it deserved.

Without question, this funding is the result of dedicated advocacy and a commitment to seeing it through. WECC will be a transformative asset for Strathmore and Wheatland County, benefiting generations of Albertans. The centre will feature a 2,000-seat Rodeo and Equine arena, a 300-seat Culture & Events Space, a Practical Ranching School, a Year-Round Rodeo Academy, and a state-of-the-art Horse Hotel with up to 300 stalls, among other world-class amenities. This is a project we can all be proud of. Learn more about

WECC online (https://www.westerncentre.ca).

As always, please feel 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)



nsored by the

STRATHMORE

# RCMP offers security tips to secure your home

ALBERTA RCMI

RCMP are reminding residents to take proactive steps to protect their homes and property from break-and-enters. By making security a priority, homeowners can reduce the risk of becoming a target and help keep the community safe.

RCMP offer the following tips to help keep your home safe:

### **Secure Entry Points**

- Always lock doors and windows, even when you are home.
- Install high-quality deadbolts and reinforce door frames to make forced entry more difficult.
- Consider security bars or pin locks for sliding doors and basement windows.

### Increase Visibility & Awareness

- Keep outdoor areas well-lit with motion-activated lighting.
- Trim shrubs and trees near doors and windows to eliminate hiding spots.
- Get to know your neighbours and report any suspicious activity to the RCMP.

### **Deter Criminals**

• Use visible security signs or stickers, even if you don't have a system. Keep valuables, including cash and electronics, out of sight from windows.

- If you're away, use timers for lights and electronics to make it look like someone is home.
- •Pause mail and deliveries or have a trusted neighbor collect them.

### **Enhance Security Measures**

- Install a security system or cameras, ensuring they are visible and functional.
- Consider a video doorbell to monitor activity at your front door.
- Store spare keys in a secure location—not under a doormat or flowerpot. **Protect Garages & Sheds**
- Keep garage doors closed and locked, even when you are home.
- Secure tools and ladders inside, as they can be used to break into your home.
- If you park outside, remove valuables from your vehicle and lock the doors.

"Despite there being an overall decrease in property crimes in the area, since January 2025, Redcliff Detachment has investigated a total of three residential break and enters and five theft of motor vehicles. Redcliff RCMP would like to remind the public of these security tips in order to deter those seeking to commit these crimes," says Staff Sergeant Michael Courty, Redcliff RCMP Detachment Commander.

# TIMES CLASSING S

# **COMING EVENTS** COMIN

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# **LEGAL NOTICES**

# Notice to Creditors and Claimants

Estate of JOANNE (J0) ELIZABETH CURRIE (NEE RICHARDSON) who died on the January 29, 2025.

If you have a claim against this estate, you must file your claim by March 26, 2025.

with DEBORA RICHARDSON

at P.O. Box 687

Trochu, AB TOM 2C0

If you do not file by the date above, the estate property can lawfully be distributed without regard to any claim you may have.

# www.StrathmoreTimes.com

# Notice to Creditors and Claimants

Estate of ROBIN JAMES LOWRIE who died on the October 16, 2024.

If you have a claim against this estate, you must file your claim by April 28, 2025.

with DANA C. CHITTICK/LAWYER

at 306, 1228 Kensington Road NW Calgary, AB T2N 3P7

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# **ANNUAL MEETING**

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

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# **Upcoming Council Meetings**

March 19, 2025 | 6 p.m. April 2, 2025 | 6 p.m. April 9 2025 | 6 p.m. Regular Meeting of Council Regular Meeting of Council Committee of the Whole

### Come Say Hi

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

### A rapid fire list of things to remember.

### Garbage, drainage, and sweeping.

The weather is warming up, which means its time for a spring cleaning list. For more information on all the below points, check out our website, **Strathmore.ca** 

Trash to Treasure (TTT) is a great time to let your unwanted items become someone elses beloved items. TTT will be from April 10-13 this year. Heavy Item Garbage (HIG) collection follows, lasting from April 14-18. Tagged items are to be placed out for collection by Monday, April 14, and picked up throughout the week. Tags can be picked up at the Municipal Building and the Library.

With spring well on its way, our overland storm drainage systems need your help. When drainage systems get blocked, we get impromptu ponds in our streets. Be sure to check your local catch basins for blockage and remove debris from the swales in your yard. You can report ditches and culverts that aren't draining by contacting us.

The weather is warming up and the streets, pathways, and boulevards are in need of a good sweeping, which is what we're doing (weather permitting). Keep an eye out for posted signs with dates and times in your area, and move your vehicle if needed. Follow our social media page for status updates and find more information on our website.

### Speedy wifi? Yes please.

## Fibre Optic Expansion.

The Town of Strathmore has partnered with Fibre Connect to expand the fibre optic main network in residential and business right-of-ways. Starting in spring 2025, Ledcor Technical Services will subcontract the work to bring high-speed fibre optic access to areas of Strathmore previously without coverage. Connection to the fibre optic will be at the discretion of property and business owners.

For more information about this project or future availability of services such as high-speed internet, contact Fibre Connect directly at **info@fibreconnect.com** or **1-800-503-2731**. You can also visit our website, **Strathmore.ca/FibreOptics** 

### Tender and major project updates.

## Municipal tenders.

The Municipal Tenders page has been updated with new opportunities for 2025. In accordance with Procurement Policy 1808, all tenders valued at \$75,000 or more are now available for public viewing. Visit **Strathmore.ca/tenders** to explore current opportunities.

Work on our major project, reservoir upgrades, is scheduled to begin this spring. Expect Maplewood Drive to be busy with construction, road closures, and underground infrastructure upgrades. You can stay informed on major project developments at **Strathmore.ca/reservoirupgrades**.

# Land Use Bylaw No. 25-06.

# Notice of Public Hearing.

April 16, 2025 at 7:10 p.m. Land Use Bylaw Amending Bylaw No. 25-06 Edgefield Phase 3, Strathmore

Staff received an application for a land use redesignation (Bylaw No. 25-06) of Edgefield Phase 3 (Lot 1, Block 3, Plan 071 1894 and Lot 1, Block 2, Plan 031 007) to facilitate the development of R1N – Single Detached Residential (Narrow Lot) District, R2 – Low Density Residential District, R3M – Medium Density Modest Residential District, P1 (MR) – Public Service District. These properties are currently designated as AG – Agriculture General District in the Land Use Bylaw (LUB).

## Public Hearing Process

A copy of the proposed Bylaws may be inspected by the public during regular office hours, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, Monday to Friday at the Town Office (1 Parklane Drive, Strathmore, AB), or can be found on the Town website (https://strathmore.ca/en/town-hall/public-hearings.aspx). Please contact the Town Office if you would like an opportunity to review and provide input on the proposed amendments prior to the Public Hearing.

The Public Hearing will be held via ZOOM AND in Council Chambers, Strathmore Municipal Building, 1 Parklane Drive, Strathmore Alberta on **Wednesday**, **April 16**, **2025**, commencing at **7 p.m.** with procedures in accordance with the Municipal Government Act, Section 199 and the Town of Strathmore Council Procedural Bylaw #23–17 and amendments thereto. Any person or group of persons, or person acting on someone's behalf, who claims to be affected by any of the proposed bylaw may present suggestions or concerns by making a submission to the public hearing. Please contact Please contact Legislative Services at **Isadmin@strathmore.ca** by noon on **Wednesday**, **April 16**, **2025**, in order to register to present.

Written submissions to the Public Hearing or the name of any person wishing to make an oral presentation at the Public Hearing must be received by the Planning and Development Department prior to noon on **Wednesday**, **April 16**, **2025**, as outlined in Bylaw #23-17 and amendments thereto. If your written submission is not received by this time, please provide fifteen (15) copies for distribution at the Public Hearing. Each person wishing to address Council at the Public Hearing shall complete their verbal presentation within three minutes.

\*Please note that written submissions will become public documents once submitted to the Town, unless otherwise requested.

Please contact Legislative Services at 403-934-3133 prior to attending a Public Hearing to determine the order of Bylaw presentations in the Council Agenda to ensure efficient use of time.

Notice of Appeal on Development Permit D24-114.

## Notice of Hearing.

Notice of Appeal on Development Permit D24-114 for the

Property Located at 4 Parklane Way, Strathmore AB
Plan 9211782, Block 1, Lot 2 - Title Number 081 287 798
Development Permit Regarding: Eagle Heights Development

The Subdivision and Development Appeal Board (SDAB) received a Notice of Appeal on March 3, 2025. The SDAB will hear the appeal on:

Date(s): Thursday, March 27, 2025

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Location: Town of Strathmore Municipal Building, Council Chambers,

### 1 Parklane Drive, Strathmore, AB

Adjacent landowners have the right to be heard by the Subdivision and Development Appeal Board. Affected persons include people who speak in favour or against the decision being appealed.

Persons are asked to provide any written and/or visual presentations to the clerk no later than noon on **March 24, 2025.** 

Please be aware that any submissions are collected for the purpose of a public hearing. By making a submission you are consenting that all information that it contains – including addresses, personal or other sensitive information – to be forwarded to the parties (e.g. municipality, appellant, applicant), the board/panel and any other person who requests to see the material.

The Development Permit Application, Notice of Decision and Notice of Appeal are available for review at the Strathmore Municipal Building, at 1 Parklane Drive during regular business hours, being 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday.

Should you have any questions, please contact the undersigned at **403-934-3133** or **veronica**. **anderson@strathmore.ca**.

# Land Use Bylaw No. 24-22.

# Notice of Public Hearing.

April 16, 2025 at 7 p.m. Land Use Bylaw Amending Bylaw No. 24-22 712 3rd Street & Surrounding Properties

Staff received an application for a land use redesignation (Bylaw No. 24-22) for those lands described as 710 Third Street, Plan 992HV, Block 28, Lot 2A; 712 Third Street, Plan 992HV, Block 28, Lot 2B, Civic Address NA, Area A, Plan 0313207, and 380 Ridge Road, Plan 8510985, Block 1, Lot 3, Strathmore to facilitate the development of apartment housing and redesignation to R3 – High Density Residential District with a Direct Control District Overlay.

These properties are currently designated as CHWY – Highway Commercial District in the Land Use Bylaw (LUB). At present, apartment housing is not a listed use in this district.

## **Public Hearing Process**

A copy of the proposed Bylaws may be inspected by the public during regular office hours, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, Monday to Friday at the Town Office (1 Parklane Drive, Strathmore, AB), or can be found on the Town website (https://strathmore.ca/en/town-hall/public-hearings.aspx). Please contact the Town Office if you would like an opportunity to review and provide input on the proposed amendments prior to the Public Hearing.

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Please contact Legislative Services at 403-934-3133 prior to attending a Public Hearing to determine the order of Bylaw presentations in the Council Agenda to ensure efficient use of time.



24-22. 712 3rd Street (and surrounding properties)



Proposed R3 High Density Residential District, District Overlay