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Strathmore Denture Clinic **f o** StrathmoreDenture









Fantastic job fair

Page 8



Season winds down

Residential slowly progressing

JOHN WATSON

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Residential housing development is moving forward in Strathmore, particularly in the neighbourhood of Lakewood as presales are moving forward for 51 townhome units.

According to Scott Silva, director of sales and marketing for Lakewood of Strathmore, the project is taking pre-registration from interested parties, with greater information to be released this spring.

"We have been working on this since early 2023, working with the town in understanding the development potential for the future buyer," he said. "I want to stress that this is not Lakewood, it is not our development. We are working with a developer and builder that is going to be building these units."

Silva added the units will aim to target a specific need for housing in Strathmore, being between 1,100 and 1,400 square-foot, three-story units.

Currently, Strathmore has a fluctuating vacancy rate of properties largely sitting below one per cent, being unable to service the current demand for local housing.

Beyond the community of Lakewood, Edgefield and Wildflower also maintain ongoing development which remains in their respective early stages.

"Each of those area structure plans go up to 20 phases or more, and we are in early phases right now – we are in phases three and four of each community. There is still lots of room and still lots of development going to happen in those communities," said Chuck Proctor, speaking on behalf of the Town of Strathmore regarding Edgefield and Wildflower. "The developers run the timelines themselves, we respond to their applications for the next phases of community development. I have not spoken to them too recently, but I know it is on everybody's mind – the potential in Strathmore."

Proctor explained it is typical for the town to receive inquiries regarding low-density residential units both for purchase, as well as for rent. This year, inquiries regarding medium- and higher-density residential units have been increasing.

Continued on Page 4



Lots to celebrate

The Wheatland Chiefs have a lot to celebrate after defeating the top team in the league, the Red Deer Elks, 3-2 on March 2 at the Strathmore Family Centre. The U18AA team will now take part in the North Conference Playoff Tournament March 7-10. See Page 5 for more coverage.

Joe Lepage Photo



SUNDAY, MARCH 10

STRATHMORE TIMES

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The Holy Cross Collegiate Hawks Jr. B basketball team hosted Siksika on Feb. 27 at the school gym. The Hawks prevailed 13-11 in a close, defensive game.

Joe Lepage Photos



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Prospect Human Services hosted a job fair at the Strathmore Travelodge, Feb. 28, to encourage local job seekers to meet potential new employers. A total of 24 businesses came out to take part in the fair, with an estimated 300 job seekers in attendance. Employers ranged from emergency services, to municipal affairs, marketing, and retail opportunities

John Watson Photos



Annual job fair returns in Strathmore

JOHN WATSON

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Strathmore's annual job fair, hosted by Prospect Human Services, took place at the Travelodge, Feb. 28, welcoming job seekers to an environment encouraging networking and in-person applications.

"We had about 24 local employers and service providers to connect local job seekers with opportunities. Everybody here is actively hiring," said Heidi Lane, workforce advisor with Prospect Human Services. "Trying to navigate some of the barriers with online applications, this was an opportunity to break through some of those digital barriers and have a face-to-face conversation, make a good impression, and maybe explain some gaps in your resume, or to have the opportunity to really get to know the employer and put your best foot forward."

Lane explained many jobseekers who attend events such as this may be those who are seeking a first job, mothers who have not been at work for an extended period of time, or those who may not be the most confident job searching online.

A job fair provides an opportunity to put oneself out there and speak with a wide variety of employers actively seeking applicants.

In this instance, the job fair was focused on the benefit of the local community who are seeking opportunities, and the local employers who are in need of extra hands to their workforces.

"In today's job landscape, it is a unique opportunity that you even get the chance to meet the employer before you apply, so that is definitely something that is unique about a job fair opportunity," said Lane. "Most places are looking for an online application these days, so this really gives you the chance to kind of break through that and meet somebody, and you are more likely to get an opportunity if they already know who you are."

As a standard, Prospect Human Services aims to see 25 employers coming out to participate in the annual job fair, which is about the limit able to be supported by the Travelodge venue.

This year, reflective of the current job market, employers offering construction-based jobs were plentiful. Additionally, food service, retail and entry-level positions were widely available to job seekers.

"We also had more intermediate and senior level roles as well, including administrative ... we had a marketing company here, and some community service roles as well," said Lane.

Prospect Human Services hosts similar events in several nearby and surrounding municipalities. In Strathmore, roughly 300 job seekers tend to attend on an annual basis.

More information, as well as support to job seekers is available locally at the Prospect Human Services office in Strathmore, as well as through their website

Legacy Farm Project, WE ARE THE WDHS sign MoU

JOHN WATSON

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Legacy Farm Project and the Western District Historical Society (WDHS) have signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) regarding their support for the ongoing project.

"As of recently, we have been advancing quite rapidly with working with not only educators, but sports and also tourism destination entities and bodies, working towards MoU's and really bringing together the collaboration framework," said Scott Silva, director of business development for the Legacy Farm Project. "As with all of our other MoU's, our five main goals are to foster innovation, inspire future generations, create sustainability, accelerate education, and grow young minds."

Silva explained the excitement behind solidifying the MoU with the WDHS regards establishing a collaborative historical center and museum at the Legacy Farm, as well as to have the WDHS as the stewards of the land.

Rhonda Stockwell, president of the Western District Historical Society, explained the organization will be the lease holder for the land utilized for the Legacy Farm Project.

"We want to attain the same goals, bridging the past and future of agriculture ... it is going to be a pivotal moment in our collective journey not only to preserve the past, but to propel it into the future," she said. "We are following our mission, which is to share our community's distinctive past and provide experience which fosters understanding of our history."

The MoU is signed as an agreement spelling out the terms of both parties' involvement over the next five years. The document also specifies it will not impose any financial responsibilities on its participants, except that each will be responsible for funding, or review costs incurred by their own respective interests related to the support of the MoU.

Silva added the signing of the MoU is a milestone for the project, as it recognizes the local regional heritage, involves a regional deep-rooted non-profit organization, and establishes the principal goal for the destination component of the Legacy Farm experience.

"This is very similar to how we are working with Golden Hills School Division to really put a focus on community development and community collaborations. This is just the first step of many that will be coming forward," he said. "It's a symbolic lease, only a dollar a year, but the idea being is that we want to establish that that focus is primarily for non-profits and local societies."

The next steps for the Legacy Farm Project include discussions regarding the development of the new barn for 2025 which will serve as the complex for the education centre, historical centre and archives, and events venue.

More information regarding the Legacy Farm project is available online via their website.

Town discusses new letters of support policy

IOHN WATSON

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Town of Strathmore Committee of the whole discussed the town's letters of support policy during the Feb. 14 meeting.

The purpose of the discussion was to introduce the policy to councilors, discuss what types of correspondence it applies to, and ensure it would receive support from councilors.

Letters of Support Policy 1109 was drafted to streamline the process for issuing specific types of common letters from the town, with the goal to reduce the time between receiving a request and issuing a letter.

As of the time of the meeting, the current process could see a period of two to three weeks from the time a need was identified, to council making a decision regarding the request.

Additionally, under the current process, depending on the urgency of the request for a letter of support, deadlines may be missed due to the length of the process, or special council meetings must be called in order to expedite the decision-making process.

The new process would have the mayor serving as the spokesperson for the town and responding to the correspondence in accordance with the Municipal Government Act, provided the documents are consistent with a council approved plan, policy, bylaw, or previously approved resolution.

An example of such a letter which recently was sent by the town was regarding the mid-size cities mayor's caucus, being a "thank you" letter.

Four types of letters were identified within the proposed policy, being letters of support, of thanks, of recognition, and internal support re-

Administration presented before council seeking feedback on the ability to in certain instances, remove the step that requires all types of correspondence come back to a council meeting prior to receiving a signature, as well as to allow for the option of the signature to be that of the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO).

This contingency would allow for the CAO to address urgent and appropriate documents within an appropriate timeframe, should the mayor and deputy mayor be unable or unavailable.

Conditions on the mayor or CAO being allowed to sign letters without the need to return to a council meeting for approval would hinge upon the conditions that no changes would be made to council's previously established position on the topic, no commitments or funding requests would be outlined in the letter, and there would be no additional approval of requests.

The Committee of the Whole did not at the time approve the policy, though it will come before council at a later date during a regular meeting.

STRATHMORE

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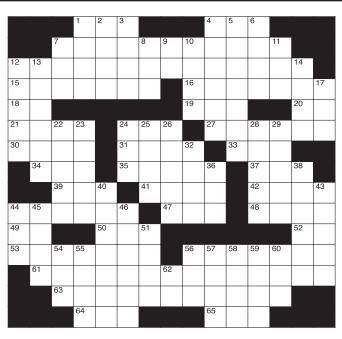
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CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Helps little firms
- 4. Political action committee
- 7. Allowed
- 12. Olivia Colman played one 15. Open
- 16. He had a notable lamp
- 18. Promotional material
- 19. Domesticated animal 20. Larry and Curly's buddy
- 21. The best ever
- 24. TV network
- 27. Checked for
- 30. Dry or withered 31. Expression of annoyance
- 33. Dash
- 34. Fifth note of a major scale
- 35. A secret clique

- 37. Partner to cheese _ school: where to learn healing
- 41. City in ancient Syria
- 42. Gasteyer and de Armas are two
- 44. Established practice 47. Thanksgiving side dish
- 48. District in Peru
- 49. It's becoming more prevalent 50. State in India
- 52. Measure of illumination
- 53. Raised platform
- 56. Japanese warrior
- 61. R.L. Stevenson novel 63. Transitory
- 64. Advanced degree
- 65. Fiddler crabs

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Prevent from seeing
- 2. Czech city
- $3. \underline{\hspace{1cm}}$ and Andy, TV show
- 4. A young pig
- 5. Removed surgically
- 6. Covered with
- 7. Chest muscle (slang)
- 8. Nigerian City
- 9. Midway between south and
- east
- 10. A way to shut
- 11. Stop playing
- 12 Marshy places 13. Takes apart
- 14. Ten cents
- 17. A gesture of assent
- 22. Scent
- 23. Teletypewriter
- 24. General's assistant (abbr.)

- 26. Taxi driver
- 28. Semitic Sun god 29. Town in India
- 32. Traditional rhythmic pattern
- 36. Fugitives are on the
- 38. Type of dance
- 40. Two letters, one sound 43. Having a strong, pleasant taste
- 44. Golf score
- 45. Mayhem
- 46. Drenched
- 51. River in northeastern Asia 54. Drug to treat anxiety (abbr.)
- 55. Part-time employee
- 56. A very large body of water
- 57. Aboriginal people of Japan
- 58. Millisecond 59. Forearm bone
- 60. Subway dweller



Preparing for the wildfire season

CHANTELLE DE JONGE

Chestermere-Strathmore MLA

This past week there have been some major announcements including Alberta's Budget for 2024. I look forward to sharing more on local wins for our constituency in the coming days.

We recently announced that more than 2,300 childca-



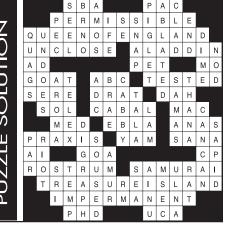
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9						4		
		1		5	4	2	7	6
		5						

Level: Beginner



re providers will receive advance payments to help them continue to provide the services families rely on. Starting March 1, child-care providers will receive about 80 per cent of their monthly claim at the beginning of each month, in addition to the fees they collect from parents. This change to monthly claim advances will help achieve the government's commitment to introducing a new payment approach, ensuring child-care providers receive grant payments sooner. The claim advance will apply to child-care facilities, family day home agencies, pre-schools, and out-of-school care providers.

Alberta's government is also setting a clear and responsible path forward for renewable project development to ensure the province's grid is reliable, affordable, and sustainable. Our province is a global leader in responsible energy development and leads the country in renewable energy projects and investment. Based on the Alberta Utility Commission's inquiry, Alberta's government is working on five policy and regulatory changes to clarify the rules for renewable energy development. Taking an agriculture first approach to protect prime agricultural land; making developers responsible for reclamation costs; establishing 35-kilometre buffer zones around protected areas and "pristine viewscapes;" conducting meaningful engagement on the possibility of renewable development on Crown lands; and, developing changes to Alberta's Transmission Regulation.

Budget 2024 prioritizes investments in health, education, and safety. Our responsible plan ensures our province will continue to grow and thrive for generations to come. Health care is a key pillar of Budget 2024. The budget invests \$1 billion over three years to transform the continuing care system in response to the Facility-Based Continuing Care Review; \$475 million to support the continued implementation of the Modernizing Alberta's Primary Health Care System initiative, including \$200 million over two years to improve access to family physicians; \$10 million for primary health care initiatives in Indigenous communities; and \$15 million to further develop a compensation model for nurse practitioners.

Budget 2024 also focuses strongly on education. The government is investing \$1.9 billion to support 98 school projects over the next three years. \$681 million in new funding would be invested to support priority school projects, including 43 new projects announced in the budget, creating

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Pastor: Kyle Lomenda

Youth Pastor: Rev. Kyle Lomenda

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403-934-2424

Pastor: Heidi Wiebe Sunday Worship 10 am

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Pastor: Dawn Nelson

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www.c3connect.ca Sunday at 10:10 a.m. C3 Prayer - Tuesday at 7 p.m. a total of 35,000 new or modernized student spaces for children around the province. And an additional \$1.5 billion would be invested for educational learning supports for vulnerable students, children with specialized learning needs, and other students requiring additional supports.

Alberta provides among the most generous affordability measures and social supports across the country and Budget 2024 continues to help alleviate the financial burdens on Albertans. This includes \$717 million in capital grants over three years to advance Alberta's Affordable Housing Strategy, which incorporates \$254 million in new funding to help build about 3,300 new affordable housing units and complete 1,800 units already underway.

Alberta's most vulnerable will also receive support through Budget 2024 with an increase of \$24.5 million in 2024-25 and \$70 million over three years to add hundreds of new homeless shelter spaces through the Homelessness Task Force Action Plan and support operational cost pressures at shelters.

Through Budget 2024, the three-year Capital Plan improves emergency response and coordination, increases capacity in the province's court system and invests in crime prevention. This includes adding 100 more street-level police officers in high-crime locations in Edmonton and Calgary, as part of the \$1.2 billion operating budget for Public Safety and Emergency Services in 2024-25.

As well, through Budget 2024, \$251 million will also be committed for flood and drought mitigation projects, such as berms, dams, reservoirs, and flood walls, and an additional \$206 million will be allocated to enhance wildfire response, readiness, and planning. This funding also encompasses operations and wildfire fighting equipment and facilities, such as sprinkler trailers and weather stations.

Finally, Budget 2024 focuses on paying down debt. An estimated \$6.4 billion in surplus cash is projected at the end of 2023-24 and Alberta's government is using half to pay off maturing debt this fiscal year. Of the remaining \$3.2 billion surplus cash, a forecast \$2 billion will be put in the Alberta Fund, and the other \$1.2 billion is being allocated to debt repayment to limit new borrowing required in 2024-25

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

More residential options on the way for Strathmore

Continued from Page 1

"Entire neighbourhoods take a long time. Ideally, we get a phase per year of community, so we have been on the lower growth side, but ideally, a community can be finished in 20 years or less, sometimes 15 or 10 years or less," he said. "They move a lot faster in Calgary where they are doing a bunch of really fast, big phases. Strathmore would hopefully like to get there one day, but we are a smaller community so we move at a different pace."

Currently amidst conversations on the town's agenda are those in regards to regulations surrounding garden and garage suites, and potentially being able to provide more affordable housing options in town.







Braves cap off season

Wheatland Braves earned a 6-5 home win over the Olds Grizzlys in their final regular season game on March 3 at the Strathmore Family Centre. The local U13AA team will now host the South Conference Tournament from March 7-10. The Braves will play March 7 (3:45 p.m.) versus Medicine Hat, March 8 (11:45 a.m.) versus Okotoks and March 8 (5 p.m.) versus Taber in the round robin portion of the tournament.

Joe Lepage Photos





Chiefs on a roll

The Wheatland Chiefs closed out the SCAHL regular season with a 7-0-1 run, including a 3-2 home ice win over the first place Red Deer Elks on March 2 at the Strathmore Family Centre. The U18AA team then closed out the season with a 2-1 win the following day versus Medicine Hat. The Chiefs are back in action on March 7 in Sylvan Lake when they take part in the North Conference Playoff Tournament.

Joe Lepage Photos







The rates of cervical cancer in Canada are continuing to increase with more cases being diagnosed than ever before. It's very ironic because there is a vaccine available (HPV) that actually prevents the cancer. The vaccine is free in Canada and the goal of Health Canada is to have 90% of all 17 year olds vaccinated by 2030. Programs in schools start when children reach the age of 12. Part of the reason why some parents refuse the vaccine for their children is due to the link between cervical cancer and sexually-transmitted diseases.

And speaking of vaccines and prevention, Hepatitis B infections are also vaccine-preventable. Current Hep-B vaccines provide 90% protection and immunity for 30 years. New recommendations say that everyone should get immunized against Hep-B.

Kidney disease affects 10% of the world's population, more than 3 million in Canada. When kidneys fail, the best solution is a kidney transplant. But there are never enough organs available. Otherwise, being hooked up 3-4 times a week to a kidney dialysis machine is the next best option. Researchers at the University of Saskatchewan are studying new membrane materials in the hope that eventually, a "wearable kidney" can be developed to help those with kidney failure lead more nor-

According to the Canadian Kidney Foundation, you are never too old to be an organ donor. Many seniors have very healthy organs. The oldest Canadian donor was 102 but many are well into their 70's and beyond. Have you registered as an organ donor yet?

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Town, Communities in Bloom host tree pruning workshop

IOHN WATSON

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Communities in Bloom and the Town of Strathmore are hosting a free fruit tree pruning workshop, March 9, aiming to teach members of the community proper care and maintenance of their trees.

Max Vickers, speaking on behalf of the Town of Strathmore, and who will be operating the workshop, said the basics of how to prune trees and why it is important will be among the topics covered during the session.

"We are going to be talking about how to execute pruning cuts, deciding when the best time is to do some pruning we are going to get into how to increase fruit production in your fruit trees, and I am going to get into some of the other basics of general tree pruning," he said. "It is something that is pretty new. We started only doing these workshops in the last year or two."

Vickers said teaching people how to take care of their trees is incredibly important towards supporting both the lives of the trees, but also in the context of environmental stewardship.

"Trees are incredibly important not only to humans, but to the environment that we all share ... things are harder with the climate challenges we have been having over the last decade or so, and I do not perceive things going in a positive direction," he said. "Teaching people the importance of, and how to take care of their trees will just go a long way in increasing general environmental viability, and just allowing people to perhaps get some education into something they find really interesting or want some more information on."

In general, a wide variety of fruit trees are a common sight in Strathmore, from those present on private residential properties, to the birth forest project on Centennial Drive.

Vickers added as urban environments differ greatly from ontexts trees evolved to naturally occur in, pruning has become critically important to their sustained health and lon-

"Trees existed long before humans did, so they can generally survive without pruning, but being that we are introducing trees to urban environments that have a much different setting than before people existed and harvested, pruning trees will help prolong the lifespan of the tree itself," he said. "You can increase aesthetics dramatically with proper pruning done in appropriate amounts."

The workshop will be taking place at the corner of Thomas Drive and Centennial Drive, running from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. Those who are interested in participating are asked to bring their own pruners if they possess them.



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Upcoming Meetings

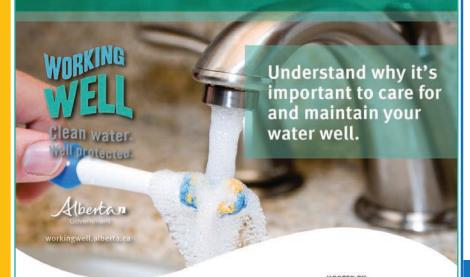
Council and committee meetings will now be open to the public and via teleconference.

For public hearings it is strongly encouraged that you attend in person. **March 12: Municipal Planning Commission**

March 12: Council Meeting March 28: Committee of the Whole

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

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WHEATLAND



Wheatland County DATE: March 13, 2024 START TIME: 6:30 PM LOCATION: Wheatland County administration building PRE-REGISTER ONLINE:



Workshop

March **26th**, 6:00pm Wheatland County Admin Building

The trees and shrubs that make up Shelterbelts and ecobuffers can help to prevent soil erosion, reduce extreme temperatures and energy use, capture snow for water retention or to prevent blowing snow on roadways, sequester carbon, provide habitat for pollinators and other wildlife, and so much

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Presented by Toso Bozic

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- Site selection & preparation
- Tree & shrub species selection
- Tips for planting success
- Maintenance
- Minimizing environmental damage
- Managing pests & diseases
- County funding programs

To register or for information visit: https://2024wctree.eventbrite.com or contact agandenv@wheatlandcounty.ca





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











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- **Seasonal Labourer (Hamlet Crew)**
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- Seasonal Labourer (Surfacing Crew)
- Seasonal Equipment / Spray Truck Operator (ASB)

Deadline for Applications: March 8, 2024

Visit our website for more information and APPLY TODAY! wheatlandcounty.ca/careers/



Community Facilities Funding Grant Program

During the February 20, 2024 Council meeting, Wheatland County Council approved changes to the Recreation Policy 14.4 Community Facilities Funding Grant Program.

The Community Facilities Funding Grant Program offers financial aid to non-profit groups operating community facilities in Wheatland County's hamlets and residential areas.

Grant applications are currently being accepted until April 8, 2024.

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

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

Have you heard?

Wheatland County now has an expansive online business directory!

If your business, regardless of size, is based within Wheatland County, don't miss out - explore our new investwc.ca website and join today!











Dinnertime fun

The Wheatland Conservation & Wildlife Association hosted their annual dinner and silent auction on March 2 at the Strathmore Civic Centre. The evening featured raffles, major door prizes and awards.

Joe Lepage Photos



Moving on

The Strathmore Storm U13T6 team advanced to the league championship after their 2-0 win over Pincher Creek in Game 2 on March 3 at the Strathmore Family Centre. The Storm, who won 11-6 in Game 1, will battle Brooks for the league championship. Their home game of that series is slated for March 10 (11 a.m.) at the Strathmore Family Centre.

Joe Lepage Photos



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Liberals scandal - what else is new

MARTIN SHIELDS

Member of Parliament Bow River Riding

Scandals are to Justin Trudeau and his Liberal government like wine is to cheese, or peanut butter to jam. The number of scandals and corruption cases have become so numerous that Canadians have become largely numb to it – but maybe we have finally hit the tipping point.

When Canadians hear that billions of dollars are being thrown away in some investment bank or another so-called environmental program, it doesn't really resonate just how much money that is. It's difficult to even picture what a billion dollars looks like. But when a scandal about a government-funded mobile phone application that was supposed to cost \$80,000, and ended up costing over \$60 million with no receipts to prove where that money went, Canadians are right to be in utter disbelief.

But that is exactly what happened. ArriveCAN or ArriveSCAM, A COVID-era phone app that was meant to track border restrictions and vaccination status (which was problematic in itself) cost you, the Canadian taxpayer \$60 million. That's according to the Auditor General who completed her report after Conservatives passed a motion in the House of Commons to investigate this fiasco.

At the centre of the AG's report is the poor record keeping – so much so that the precise cost of the app is impossible to determine. So that begs the question: who got rich and where are the receipts? Were they purposely destroyed? Is the public service, after eight years of Justin Trudeau being so incompetent and loose with Canadian dollars, at the point that they just don't care anymore?

Not to mention that ArriveSCAM sent over 10 thousand Canadians into wrongful quarantine during COVID restrictions – that is simply unacceptable. But the app was also cloned as a joke by two college students on a weekend! That's how simple it could have – and should have – been.

It's an absolute mess. That's why Conservatives are pressing to investigate this fully at a number of Parliamentary committees including Public Accounts and Government Operations.

The silver lining? A Conservative Motion in the House of Commons calling on the Government to table all documents and costs associated with ArriveCan passed. I was proud to vote in favour of this motion so Canadians can get answers.

Here is the Auditor General's full report (https://www.oag-bvg.gc.ca/internet/docs/parl_oag_202402_01_e.pdf)

Be sure to follow me on social media and sign up for my e-newsletter to keep up with federal news and updates: Facebook (@MartinShieldsBowRiver), Twitter (@MartinBowRiver) and Instagram (@MartinShields_BowRiver).









On the rise

The Strathmore Ice U12B team defeated the Airdrie 6-2 on March 2 at the Strathmore Family Centre. With the win, the Ice will advance to face Indus on March 10 in a pivotal playoff matchup. Joe Lepage Photos





Tough contest

The Strathmore Ice U19B team was shutout when they hosted Cochrane on March 2 at the Strathmore Family Centre. The Ice will close out the regular season March 6 in Calgary. **Joe Lepage Photos**





County to contribute to new fire rescue unit

JOHN WATSON

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Wheatland County council has approved the contribution of 60 per cent of the value of a new Rockyford Rescue

Additionally, council has also authorized proceeds from the trade-in or sale of the current 2005 rescue unit to be divided evenly between the county and the Rockyford Rural Fire Association.

The county's contribution to the new unit will cap out to a maximum of \$526,000, or the 60 per cent commit-

During the Feb. 1 regular council

meeting, the Rockyford Rural Fire Association (RRFA) requested the replacement of their 2005 Fire Rescue unit.

Their presentation indicated the unit has required significant recent repairs, prompting the RRFA to complete a needs assessment. This led to the determination it would be more cost effective to replace the machine instead of attempting to continue extending its

"There is no National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standard that says we have to replace it after 20 years, that is just our procedure," said Michael Bourgon, manager of emergency and fire services. "We look at 20 year replacement plans, we look at in and out replacement in fire services at the 20 year mark."

The estimated cost of the new fire rescue unit is roughly \$877,132.20. To confirm this cost, a 10 per cent deposit will be required to be paid to Rocky Mountain Phoenix prior to Feb. 22. The county's 60 per cent commitment to the new machine is outlined in the Fire Association Policy 12.0.

Bourgon added the cost of the machine has increased by roughly \$30,000 over a timeline of approximately six

Delivery of the new fire rescue unit is not anticipated until 2026, at which point the current machine will be either sold or traded-in. Outside of the deposit, the remaining costs required to replace the machine will be paid in 2026 upon its delivery.

The equipment is owned by the RRFA, and the request makes no impact on the county's capital budget. The fire association funding policy already accounts for the service costs which will be required for the replacement of the machine.

At the time of purchase of the current 2005 machine, it was financed in a 50-50 agreement between the RRFA and Wheatland County, therefore it will be reimbursed by the same margin.

At the request of Coun. Shannon Laprise, Bourgon estimated the trade in value of the 2005 machine in two years will likely be in the realm of \$50,000, though its value may fluctuate prior to its trade.

Council voted unanimously to approve the county's contribution to the new machine, as well as the agreement regarding the sale or trade in of the current fire rescue unit.

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March 9, 2024 - 7:00 pm

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Upcoming Concerts

The Charms—Denis & Megan May 4, 2024

be picked up at the door the night of the concert.

Tickets can be purchased at the Vault Cultural Collective or online at www.smoreuc.com. Online purchases must

featuring students

from the Carolyn

Steeves Piano Studio

PRAIRIE DEBUT

New Arts on 817 season starts

MELISSA PICHE
Times Contributor

The Arts on 817 Concert series is pleased to present La Fiammata One Piano Four Hands on March 9. This Pan-Canadian piano duo highlights the talents of Linda Ruan and Charissa Vandikas.

This is the sixth season for the Arts on 817 Concert series and the year kicks off with an act that has been named Hot 30 Under 30 Canadian Musicians by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation.

Linda Ruan has been playing the piano since she was seven-years-old and playing in the duo for nearly nine years now. Having lived in Tokyo, Shanghai and Vancouver, Ruan has adapted to new cultures easily over her life and found that her curiosity for new cultures has helped her hone in on her passion for the fine arts.

"We titled this program Love Letter to Humanity," said Ruan, who said they developed this program shortly after the pandemic when they were just getting to perform for people again. "It's reconnecting with the incredible feeling of connecting with a live audience through music that we love.

"It's a huge range of incredible, profound but also really fun music. We're really excited to bring this program to Strathmore."

Their tour started in September 2023 in the Atlantic Provinces, traveled to the west coast – when they visit Strathmore, they will be on the prairie leg of their journey. From there they will finish up in Quebec at the end of April.

Both performers are top prize winners in a number of different categories and their duo La Fiammata has gained international recognition as the winners of the Lancaster International Chamber Music Competition, Suzana Szörenyi International Piano Duo Competition, and the Northwest International Piano Ensemble Competition. They are traveling with the Pan Canadian Tour organized by Debut Atlantic, Jeunesses Musicales Canada, and Prairie Debut.

Along with the feature performers, there will be a local Opening Act with this concert, which has had an incredible amount of support and success for the concert series. This

RCMP warn public of smart key emulators

ALBERTA RCMP

Red Deer RCMP wish to warn the public on the use of smart key emulators in vehicle thefts. A Smart Key Emulator is a device that allows you to create (emulate) a key for certain car models without using or having the original smart key. After emulating the key, the device can open and close the doors, the trunk, as well as start the engine at any time, an infinite amount of times. The emulator takes over the basic functions of the original smart key and essentially becomes the smart key.

Safety measures against Key Fob Emulator (Relay Attacks): 1. Don't leave valuable items (purses, GPS units, shopping bags or electronics) in your car. If you must do so, make sure they are out of sight in a locked glove box or trunk.

- 2. If possible, park your car in a closed garage; this makes it a far less inviting target.
- 3. Block your vehicle between your garage and a second less sought after vehicle.
- 4. Use a steering wheel lock, also known as a club, to deter thieves.
- 5. Install motion detection lights and exterior surveillance cameras at home to act as a deterrent.
- 6. Store your key fobs (all of them) in a metal container when not in use. The metal provides a barrier that interrupts radio signals to/from the smart fob.
- 7. Alternatively, inexpensive RFID pouches are available. These have metal mesh linings that can shield a key fob from sending or receiving radio signals.
- 8. Keep in mind that on occasion the thieves have returned to steal the replacement vehicle after the first one had been stolen, so continue to follow these tips.

Red Deer RCMP encourages everyone to report all thefts to police, by phone, in person, or using the RCMP app. Reports tell us where to look, who to look for, and where additional patrols may be required. If you wish to remain anonymous, contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS), online at www.P3Tips.com or by using the "P3 Tips" app available through the Apple App or Google Play Store.

time the opening act will be "A Potpourri of Piano Chamber Music" featuring students of Carolyn Steeves Piano Studio.

Steeves is the Founder and Artistic Director of the Arts on 817, which was founded in 2017. To say she has a vested interest in the arts community is an understatement.

"I've been really looking forward to this concert, because as a piano teacher I thought it would be really cool to have a piano concert on our series. And when I looked back on our series, this is our sixth year – we've never actually had a piano concert. And I thought 'Wow how could that have happened?' but it did!"

Steeves said this is a particularly good time for her students to perform as it's right before the Strathmore Performing Arts Festival, giving her students a chance to do some extra master classes in preparation for festival.

The Opening Act will feature 15 students from Steeves studio ... there are students in Grade 1 piano all the way up to ARCT (Associate Diploma) students

"There's quite a range of levels (from) age 8-17," said Steeves. "Everything that is being performed is an ensemble."

Steeves explained that all the pieces she has chosen for her students will be group numbers to go along with the theme of La Fiammata.

"I have students playing a piano quartet, that's two pianos, eight hands. I have three groups playing trios, that's one piano, six hands and I have four duet teams, she said. "I think it's going to be really fun, actually."

She said her students have been preparing since October 2023 and have really been honing their skills since Christmas.

CSLB 1082165 NSCB 0082999 0083445



Charissa Vandikas (I-r) and Linda Ruan, members of La Fiammata Piano Duo, will be performing as the headlining act for the Arts on 817 Concert Series on March 9 at the Strathmore United Church.

Photo Courtesy of La Fiammata

"The hardest thing, when you start working with children on ensembles is getting them together," said Steeves. "They're ready to go and they're very excited."

One exciting fun teaser for the Opening Act is that one trio will be performing with one of the performers from La Fiammata, which will be an exciting and once in a life time opportunity for these young performers.

The Opening Act starts at 7 p.m. with the head-lining concert at 7:30 p.m. on March 9 at the Strathmore United Church.

Tickets are \$35 for adults, \$10 for 17 and under and season passes can be purchased starting at \$40. Tickets can be purchased ahead of time by visiting The Vault Cultural Collective or online (www.smoreuc.com).



Rosebud Theatre celebrates courage, inspiration, adventure!

LAUREEN F. GUENTHER
Times Contributor

Rosebud Theatre's 2024 season features plays that celebrate courage, inspiration and adventure.

"Theatre should carry us into adventure, into courageous living, into inspiration," said Morris Ertman, Rosebud Theatre's Artistic Director. He hopes this season's shows will give all of those gifts to patrons.

Chariots of Fire

Chariots of Fire opens Rosebud Theatre's season, playing April 5 to May 25. It's the true story of Olympic runner Eric Liddell, who – in 1924, 100 years ago – ran for the glory of God, refusing to compromise his religious beliefs. His chief competitor Harold Abrahams ran in the face of antisemitism.

Calgary actor Joe Perry will play Eric Liddell, and Rosebud actor Aaron Krogman will play Harold Abrahams. Morris Ertman will direct. Mike Bartlett is the playwright.

"(*Chariots of Fire* is) probably the biggest thing we've ever tackled, staging-wise," Ertman said. He plans to create a show that's emotionally soaring, a play that "will really lift the roof off the theatre."

Little Women

Little Women, a musical, is Rosebud Theatre's summer show, playing in the Opera House June 7 to Aug. 31. The classic story is about four young sisters – Meg, Jo, Amy and Beth – growing up during the American Civil War.

"It's celebrating the bond between sisters," Ertman said. "And it's a celebration of family

... and talk about courage. Jo's fantasies, her stories, are all about that. She's ... a woman stepping out and carving her own voice in the world."

Jo March will be played by Rosebud actor Cassia Schmidt. Rosebud actor Glenda Warkentin will play Mrs. March. Morris Ertman will direct. Bill Hamm is directing music.

The Fever

The Fever will run July 5 to Aug. 31 on Rosebud's Studio Stage. It's written by Wallace Shawn and will be directed by Bronwyn Steinberg.

"(*The Fever*) is a story about a woman (a New York actor) who has an epiphany," Ertman said. "She's in the midst of a transition in her life ... in which she is struggling with who she is, and knowing she has to become someone different. She finds herself in a third-world hotel room with a fever. And in that fever, she has a vision of what her life would be if she gave up everything she had done before to embrace the poor."

For the Pleasure of Seeing Her Again

Rosebud Theatre's fall show is *For the Pleasure of Seeing Her Again*, playwright Michel Tremblay's celebration of his own mother. It plays Sept. 13 to Oct. 26.

"This is (Tremblay) putting (his mom) on stage and crediting her as his inspiration," Ertman said. "She is the nut-

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tiest, yet most romantic mom you'll ever meet. I love it because it is a theatre person paying tribute to a large part of his muse, and a large part of his muse is his mom."

This theme is personal for Ertman.

"I have to say personally that that's true of me," he said. "The breadth of my imagination and wonder and love of art and love of theology came from my mom."

The play will be performed by mother and son actors, Karen Johnson-Diamond and Griffin Cork.

"It's going to bring a glorious light to the stage," Ertman said. "The fact that there's a real bond between these two (actors). It's the real thing. They're tight. That's going to bring light to this show that's going to translate it into something wonderful."

Christmas on the Air

Christmas on the Air plays Nov. 8 to Dec. 22. By playwright Lucia Frangione, the play will be directed by Ian Farthing. Bill Hamm will direct music.

"It's the story of a 1940s Christmas Eve radio show," Ertman said, "that's being transmitted from the Opera House in front of a live studio audience. It's filled with carols, Christmas songs, sung live, along with a cooking segment with Sylvia, the piano player."

It's also a Christmas love story.

"There's this young woman who's just joined the team there," Ertman said. "She has a baby, born out of wedlock ... what do you do when you discover that the girl you've fallen in love is the mother of a baby and how do you sort that out live on air? It winds up paralleling the Christmas story in the most amazing way."

Special Productions

Rosebud will also host guest productions and Artists-in-Training shows this season

A return performance of *Tomatoes Tried to Kill Me but Banjos Saved My Life* will run March 20-23 in the Opera House. Keith Alessi wrote and performs his own story of how banjo-playing nurtured his recovery from cancer.

Dream, a new musical by Terry Bachynski, will play on the Studio Stage, May 10-11. It's the story of Bachynski's parents, his father an orphaned immigrant, and his mother, a feisty smalltown girl. This production is a staged reading, developed with the support of Rosebud Theatre.

The Voice of the Prairie, by John Olive and performed by Rosebud School of the Arts' Artists-in-Training, will appear on the Studio Stage, April 12-27. It's the story of storyteller/radio jockey Davey Quinn, telling of his adventures with a girl named Frankie.

"We (in Rosebud) deliver emotional experiences like no one else," Ertman said. "We believe the stories that we tell. We believe in offering them up as a gift to the audience ... our stories are about human beings and common shared experience and they're also about ... spiritual connection between human beings. We believe in the magic that we put on the stage."

For tickets and more information about Rosebud Theatre's season, go to www.rosebudtheatre.com or 1-800-267-7553.



<u>Obituary</u>

CHASE, Lawrence Nelson "Larry"

Lawrence Nelson Chase, known to friends and family as Larry, passed away peacefully on February 15, 2024, in Calgary, Alberta, at the age of 77. He was born on July 15, 1946, in Magog, Quebec. Larry's journey through life was marked by an unwaver-

ing dedication to his family, a strong work ethic, his passion for music, cooking, and community service.

Larry is survived by his lifelong love of 45 years, Linda Lee. He was blessed with 7 children, Kelly, Jason, Charlotte, Andrew, Kathy, Rick, and Karen. His legacy continues through his cherished grandchildren Drew, Reid, Emma, Alexa, Nicholas, Allyssa, Trevor, Matthew, Jen, Christina, Petra, Parker, and Piersen as well as his adored great-grandchildren. He was predeceased by his daughter Karen Chase, whose memory remained a guiding light in his life. As a father and pillar of our family he worked hard every day to learn from his mistakes, to be supportive when needed, guide us when required, and love us unconditionally.

Larry worked hard to achieve different goals in his life by joining the military, working in the coal mines, attending SAIT & Mount Royal, founding Wheatland taxi, along with the pool hall and arcade in the late 80's. Larry was a great contributor to bring the handi-bus to Strathmore and was a Bingo caller at the Legion along with being St. Nicholas for the community Christmas parties. We cannot forget to mention Mr.souvalaki down on Electric Ave in the 90's at Stardust Pizza. This title made him feel like a celebrity and introduced him to many. Later in his years he retired from his working days by making a difference to the shoppers at Wal-Mart in Strathmore. Larry tried to make a difference in the lives of others with his smile and humor; he took every job he did and made it a goal to make others' days better.

Larry had a thriving family with more sisters and brothers like George than a man could count on one hand, as he would say. Although he is only survived by a few siblings now, he cherished every one of them. When Larry met Linda, she came as a package deal with her mother Shirley, brothers Larry and Lorne, and sister Laurie, along with their life partners Marbry, Christine & Ken. They became his family and support here in Alberta and he cared for them dearly.

We welcome everyone to join us with more memories, laughter, and celebration for Larry Chase on Friday, March 15, 2024, at Strathmore Alliance Church at 1:00 p.m.

To send condolences, please visit Larry's obituary at www.wheatlandfuneral-home.ca.

Wheatland Funeral Home
Strathmore, AB 403-934-4404

<u>Obituary</u>



MURRAY, John Edward February 27, 1946 March 1, 2024

It is with sadness but also gratitude that we announce the peaceful passing of JOHN EDWARD MURRAY on March 1, 2024 at Bassano, Alberta at the age of 78 years. John left a legacy of wonderful memories

for his family. John was predeceased by his parents Edward Murray, and Violet Murray (nee Wyatt). John is survived by his loving wife, Vicki; daughters Lorelei Haberl (Mike) and Michelle Connors (Kent); grandchildren Mitchell Haberl (Ally), Chelsea Haberl (Kurtis), Sean Connors (Briana) and Shelby Connors (Conner); great grandchildren, Olivia Haberl and Kayden Connors. John is also survived by his sister Valerie Dunn (Grant), brother Clarence Murray (Janet), sisters-in-law, brothers-in-law, and numerous nieces and nephews. There are no words that can properly express our gratitude for the outstanding care given to John by the Bassano long-term care staff at the Bassano Hospital. Thank you for loving him and being his family when we were not always able to be there, you are all truly angels on this earth. There will be no memorial service as per John's wishes. His ashes will be placed at the cemetery in Horizon, SK. As Dad said, "It's where your mother and I started our life together, and it will be our final resting place together". Expressions of sympathy may be forwarded to the family via the website www.fostersgardenchapel.ca.

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TIMES (C) , A SSI R I R DS

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice to Creditors and Claimants

Estate of LAWRENCE NELSON CHASE who died on the February 15, 2024.

If you have a claim against this estate, you must file your claim by April 6, 2024.

with EMERSON DUNLOP, BARRISTER & SOLICITOR

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NOTICE

In accordance with the Municipal Government Act, please take notice of the following proposed bylaw:

BYLAW NO. 2024-001 MUNICIPAL BORROWING BYLAW

A bylaw of the Village of Rockyford, in the province of Alberta, to authorize the Council of the Village of Rockyford to incur indebtedness by the issuance of debenture(s) in the amount of \$400,000.00 for the purpose of servicing the new 2nd Ave. W. subdivision with sewer and water.

- 1. The borrowing bylaw is available for viewing at the Village office located at 110 Main Street, Rockyford, AB.
- 2. The borrowing bylaw received first reading at the February 21, 2024 Special Council Meeting.
- 3. Section 231 of the Municipal Government Act allows the public to submit petitions for a vote on whether the borrowing bylaw should be passed. Petitions against the borrowing bylaw must fulfill the requirements of the Municipal Government Act and be filed with the Chief Administrative Officer at the village office no later than 15 days after the second advertisement runs in the local newspaper. Information regarding petitioning requirements can be found at alberta.ca/ petition-information-for-electors.

Lottery Draw 2024

COMING EVENTS



FRIDAY, MARCH 8, 2:00 P.M.

Lord of All Lutheran Church 112 Lakeside Blvd. Strathmore Hosted by: Sacred Heart Catholic Women's League Country Recognized: PALESTINE Everyone Welcome

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The Golden Hills School Division invites applications for the following position:

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to work in our Facilities/Maintenance Department. This position will commence approximately May 6th, 2024 or when a suitable candidate is found and end around August 23, 2024. Terms of employment can be negotiated. Please refer to our website www.ghsd75.ca under Employment-Non-Teaching Opportunities for further information.



The Golden Hills School Division invites applications for the following position:

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This position is scheduled for 20 hours per week, plus potential on-call service and approximately 2-3 months contract. This position will commence immediately or when a suitable candidate is found. Please refer to our website www.ghsd75.ca under Employment-Non-Teaching Opportunities for further information.

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Weekly Newspapers



Upcoming Council Meetings

March 6, 2024 | 6 P.M. March 13, 2024 | 6 P.M. March 20, 2024 | 6 P.M. Regular Meeting of Council Committee of the Whole Regular Meeting of Council

Come Say Hi

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

2023/2024

Property Assessments

Customer Inquiry Period

The Customer Inquiry Period is an important time for property owners to check, compare, and review their assessment for accuracy, fairness, and equity.

When you receive your notice:

- 1. Review the details on your assessment notice.
- 2. Check what makes up your property's assessment value and compare it with similar properties in your neighbourhood using Strathmore.ca/PropertySearch
- 3. Contact the Town's assessor, Wildrose Assessment Services, for one-on-one support by calling 403-343-3357. Their property assessment experts can answer most assessment-related questions—with no formal complaint fees required. To help address concerns please have your latest assessment notice in front of you with the account number and valuation group information ready.
- 4. If you still disagree with your property's assessment, you can file a formal complaint with the Assessment Review Board by the deadline stated on your latest property assessment notice. You can find information on this process by visiting Strathmore.ca/Assessment

Important dates

Notices mailed: February 15, 2024 7-days for receipt: February 21, 2024

Appeal deadline: April 23, 2024 (60-days after receipt)

Contact

Wildrose Assessment Services: 403-343-3357

For more information visit Strathmore.ca/Assessment



Alberta weather conditions from spring to fall can often be very dry, contributing to prime fire conditions. With the province recently announcing an early start to wildfire season, it's important for communities to have effective wildfire prevention practices in place.

We've recently finalized Strathmore's Hazard Reduction Burn Plan. This plan aims to assess grassland fuels on the landscape within the community, identify locations of high fire risk based on predicted fire behaviour, and prioritize and prescribe these areas for hazard reduction burning. Through this process, selected regions within town will undergo hazard-reduction burning treatment in March. This process will reduce the risk of wildfire, reduce the number of nuisance fires, and better prepare the community in the event of an approaching wildfire on the landscape.

Learn more about the plan at **Strathmore.ca/HazardReduction**



Land Use Ammendments

Upcoming Public Hearings



1.

Purpose: to permit a secondary suite within a specific dwellings basement

Bylaw #24-02

The Town of Strathmore is proposing to amend *Land Use By-law #14-11* to permit a Secondary Suite as an accessory use within the basement of the existing single-detached dwelling on lands described legally as being Lot 5, Block 31, Plan 2131JK, known municipally as 318 First Avenue, Strathmore.





Lot 5, Block 31, Plan 2131JK (318 First Avenue)

Public Hearing Process

A copy of the proposed bylaw can be found on the Town's website at Strathmore.ca/PublicHearing or may be inspected by the public during regular office hours, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday at the Strathmore Municipal Building (1 Parklane Drive, Strathmore, AB).

The Public Hearing will be held via ZOOM AND in Council Chambers at the Strathmore Municipal Building on **Wednesday, March 20, 2024**, commencing at **6 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 or all of the proposed by-law, may present their concerns and/or suggestions by making a submission at the public hearing. Please contact Legislative Services by email at Isadmin@strathmore.ca no later than **noon** on **March 13, 2024**, in order to register to speak at the public hearing.

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, March 13, 202**4 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 your time.



Purpose: to include childcare services as a site-specific use

Bylaw #24-01

The Town of Strathmore is proposing to amend *Land Use Bylaw No. 14-11* to redesignate Lot 9, Block 1, Plan 961 1453 (1016 Westridge Road) from "CHWY" Highway Commercial District to CHWY - Highway Commercial District Direct Control District Overlay, to include childcare services as a use. Bylaw #24-01 is a site-specific redesignation and would only apply to the lands at 1016 Westridge Road.





Lot 9, Block 1, Plan 961 1453 (1016 Westridge Road)

Public Hearing ProcessA copy of the proposed bylaw can be found on the Town's website at Strathmore.ca/
PublicHearing or may be inspected by the public during regular office hours, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday at the Strathmore Municipal Building (1 Parklane Drive, Strathmore, AB).

The Public Hearing will be held via ZOOM AND in Council Chambers at the Strathmore Municipal Building on **Wednesday, March 20, 2024**, commencing at **6:10 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 Legistlative Services at Isadmin@strathmore.ca by **noon** on **Wednesday, March 13th, 2024**, 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, March 13, 202**4 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.

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