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VOLUME 15 ISSUE 46

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Page 3



Lest We Forget

Page 11



Tourney time

Getting budget answers

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Town of Strathmore hosted another “Getting Coffee with Council” session, Nov. 7 in council chambers, with the intent to answer public inquiry about the local budget and upcoming deliberations.

This type of session is organized on several occasions throughout a given year in order for residents to meet with their local council in an informal setting to discuss ideas, projects and concerns, and to have questions answered.

Immediately at the start of the meeting, the topic of zero per cent tax increases was brought up to be addressed.

“Really what that does is kick the can down the road and at some point, you have to make up for shortfall, because inflation is never below zero,” explained Mayor Pat Fule. “If you do zero per cent increases, we have been caught in the past where we have had to catch up and have had to increase taxes because of (that prior) zero per cent increase.”

Fule referenced back in 2021 during the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the town made an effort to create a budget with a zero per cent increase in order to help those who had lost jobs and income.

He spoke about the difficulty associated with accomplishing a feat like that due to rising costs everywhere else, which would effectively put the Town behind the curve of inflation.

“Inflation is a big factor as far as our tax increases (are concerned). The year over year inflation rate for September in the Calgary region was 4.4 per cent. The town right now has proposed an increase of 5.05 per cent in the 2024 budget,” said Fule. “Unfortunately, the cost to provide services that residents expect has gone up, and that is including things like natural gas heating, electricity, the pool ... and the town, sometimes we have to raise revenues in order to pay those inflated costs.”

In comparison to last year, he added, the inflation rate for September in the Calgary region was 6.8 per cent and the town increased taxes by 4.5 per cent.

Continued on Page 4



Peace please

Students from George Freeman School placed poppies at the Peace Pole during the school's Remembrance Day ceremony on Nov. 9. The Peace Pole says “May Peace Prevail on Earth” in several languages. See Page 14 for more coverage.

Joe Lepage Photo

STRATHMORE TIMES

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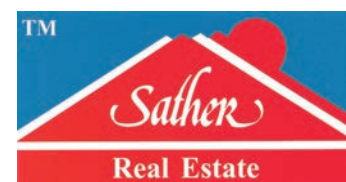
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The Strathmore Municipal Library hosted a Remembrance Day event on Friday, Nov. 10. Participants did activities, listened to stories, watched videos and signed Christmas cards to be sent to active military members.

Joe Lepage Photos



Bridging the Gap
Christmas Gnome Craft
 Thursday, November 23, from 1-3 pm
 Rockyford Friendship Centre

Free event for those 55+
 Door prizes and refreshments
 All materials supplied

Please register by emailing Nancy at btgalberta@outlook.com or by calling 403-361-7216 by Tuesday, November 21

www.bridgingthegapalberta.ca

In partnership with the Rockyford Friendship Centre

Library hosts Remembrance Day programming

JOHN WATSON
 Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Strathmore Municipal Library hosted a Remembrance Day event, Nov. 10, to commemorate the occasion prior to ceremonies on the 11th proper.

Laura Henderson, assistant director of library services, explained the program was designed to be simple, drop in, and free to attend for anyone who wished to participate in Remembrance Day programming.

“We are just doing a really drop in, casual program; it is just an open program for families where they can come in and sign a card that we are going to take over to the legion – that is just one big, giant card,” she said. “Then, we are going to have Christmas cards for veterans that anyone who drops in can fill out and then we will send away after the event, and some story time and crafts.”

The library, in some fashion or another, makes an effort to host an event or programming for Remembrance Day on an annual basis.

Last year, though there was no designated Flex Friday event hosted, cards were still made available for people to drop in and sign. Henderson explained programming tends to depend on scheduling and when the Flex Friday falls during the week and in relation to Remembrance Day.

“Because this kind of event is on Flex Fridays,

we typically have a fairly consistent attendance at any Flex Friday program, and then with this one it tends to have good attendance because people want to pay their respects and this is a way that they can do that,” she said. “This one happens to fall right before Remembrance Day, and the kids are off school, and we are open on this Flex Friday.”

On occasions when Nov. 11 falls during the week, the library will not host a similar Flex Friday event following Remembrance Day proper.

“Flex Friday programming is very well received; our Halloween program had about 80 people and so that was a Flex Friday as well. Obviously, a very different type of event but we do tend to see fairly good numbers at them,” said Henderson. “The idea is to provide some education, to provide some information and then also to allow the participants to contribute in some way. Sending out those cards, for instance, or signing the large card that we will take to the legion is just a way for them to participate in Remembrance Day recognition.”

Last year approximately 40 cards were sent out from the library to veterans. When the library is able to have a dedicated program, such as this year, they are typically able to send out more, as people will attend the event for the Flex Friday program specifically and to participate in Remembrance Day.



Bridging the Gap
Make & Take Christmas Wreath
 Thursday, November 30
 1 - 3 pm
 Gleichen Community Hall

Come join us for a festive and fun Christmas Wreath Making Workshop

Please bring a pair of sharp scissors, a glue gun, and special decorations and ribbon to customize your wreath. The rest of the materials will be supplied.

Workshop is open to those 55+. Cost is \$10 and registration is required.

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A Remembrance Day ceremony was hosted at the Strathmore Legion, Branch No. 10 building, Nov. 11 to commemorate and remember Canada's fallen soldiers. As is typically practised every year, the ceremony featured the laying of wreaths, and the names of the fallen who were originally from Strathmore.

John Watson Photos



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YOUR WEEKLY HEALTH ADVICE
Gord Morck Pharmacist
Capsule Comments

Because of most parents' acceptance of immunizing their children, many have never seen a case of measles. Certain groups are most vulnerable including children under 5 especially infants, adults over 20, pregnant women and people with severely compromised immune systems from cancer, transplants and those on chemotherapy. Most adults born before 1957 are naturally immune and probably had measles already. Measles is a very serious disease and the best protection is provided by the MMR vaccine.

A large percentage of new prescriptions are never filled and about 30% of patients stop taking their medication or miss doses. This can seriously affect the treatment outcomes. Sometimes, it's cost that is the cause. Other times it's just the overwhelming number of medications to take. Or it can be memory problems. Pharmacists can help in these situations.

In the past few years, there has been an increase in ER visits and hospitalizations related to cannabis-use by pregnant women. Many studies have shown cannabis can cause the risk of early delivery, low birth weight and the possibility of attention deficit disorder and autism. It's important to tell your doctor of any drugs you are taking while pregnant.... for baby's sake.

Knee replacement surgery was first performed in 1968. Back then it required a week's hospital stay. But today, with the improvement of better materials and surgical techniques, stays are often just one day. It's just the waiting to have it done that's the problem.

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Thought for
the Week
~
*Be the
change you
wish to see
in the world.*
Mahtma Gandhi

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RCMP warns public of new scam

ALBERTA RCMP

RCMP have recently been made aware of a scam involving a group of people physically impersonating police officers in Edson.

In the most recent case, a victim was called by a number listed as RCMP. When they answered the phone, the person on the other end of the line stated they were calling from the RCMP and that the victim was going to be arrested due to some outstanding “money laundering” scheme.

At the same time, two people, dressed as police officers, knocked on the door asking if the victim had gotten a call. The two suspects confirmed that the victim would be arrested unless they pay a fee. The victim was instructed to empty their account and purchase gift cards and give the information to the person on the phone. The suspect on the phone said that the money would be given back if it was proven that they were not part of an ongoing investigation.

Alberta RCMP would like to remind the public to always be aware of scammers:

- At no time will an RCMP officer request a fee, gift cards, or otherwise money in exchange of forgoing an arrest.
- If an arrest warrant is issued, the warrant will be executed as specified on the warrant. If a warrant to search a home or seize an account is granted, the warrant will be executed as specified and you are entitled to read the warrant.
- If ever you are in the presence of someone stating they

are a police officer and you have doubts, you are allowed to ask for identification. Furthermore, you may call 911 or your local detachment or dispatch number to confirm that the officers before you are who they say they are.

If you, or anyone you know, has fallen victim to this scam, please contact the Edson RCMP Detachment at 780-723-8822, or your local police. If you wish to remain anonymous, you can 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. To report crime online, or for access to RCMP news and information, download the Alberta RCMP app through Apple or Google Play.

Town addresses budget questions during Getting Coffee

Continued from Page 1

Fule also emphasized that nothing regarding the town’s budget has yet been finalized and many more budget discussions are yet to be had before final increases are decided upon.

In comparison to several other municipalities, Fule said the Town of Strathmore is actually looking at increasing tax rates decidedly lower than most, without being required to dip into local reserves.

More information regarding the discussion, as well as the rest of the Coffee with Council meeting minutes are publicly available to view through the town’s YouTube channel.

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SWCC looking for new logo as plan to rebrand kicks off

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Strathmore Wheatland Chamber of Commerce (SWCC) will soon be announcing a new logo, as well as a rebranding of the organization and they have opened submissions for a logo to the local community.

Cody Holdaway, director and communications chair for the SWCC, explained during the board of directors' retreat taken by the chamber, it was decided the team felt like they needed a new face and new angle to push what they offer for their member businesses.

"Last month, the chamber had a board retreat, and we really sat down and thought about what we want this chamber to do for our local business community, and one of the things that came out of that was, the chamber needs a rebrand," he said. "We are asking anyone in the region to send us whatever you have, whether you're a kid, or a high school student and you're just drawing on a piece of paper and we have to get it remade – we just want to see what anyone can do."

The contest for a new logo consists of a \$1,000 bounty on the design. Submissions are open to anyone who resides within Strathmore or Whe-

atland County.

Holdaway explained the goal here being to not single out any one business in particular, and to open participation up to anyone who may be interested in creating an idea.

"We sat down and realized what are the benefits we are offering to our members, and we are really trying to improve what we can offer to our members in the local business community," he said. "With these new things coming, we kind of want to relaunch the chamber within the community, and we think a new logo and a new brand is the best way to reface the chamber."

Alongside looking for a new logo, Holdaway said the chamber has established a saturated new team with positions filled on their board of directors, new chairs, and new executives who are ready to make a positive impact for the local business community.

The deadline for logo submissions is scheduled for Nov. 20 and the chamber is looking for as many submissions as possible "resembling everything Strathmore and Wheatland County."

No official date has been scheduled yet regarding an announcement of the winner, what the new logo will look like, nor the rebranding. More information regarding the logo contest for the SWCC is available online (theswcc.ca/logo).

Blackfoot Tech Council announces completion of summer IT training program in Calgary

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Siksika Nation's Blackfoot Tech Council has released that trainees of the Siksika First Nation's IT Training Program had an opportunity to work on a large-scale Wi-Fi enterprise system, hosted by the Tech Council.

The participation was reported to have taken place, Aug. 8, with information being publicized, Nov. 1. The IT training program is an introduction to information technologies knowledge.

Trainees installed a wireless Wi-Fi solution which services the Sunpark Plaza building in Southeast Calgary, which is owned by Siksika Nation.

The building serves to house offices for the Siksika Chief and Council, as well as for Tribal Administrations.

"It costs a lot of money to have systems like that put in place. Bringing more systems in-house is one of our goals at the Blackfoot Tech Council. It's all about the capacity building," said David Panther Bone, Blackfoot Tech Council co-founder and board chair.

"Empowering Siksika Nation members through the Blackfoot Tech Council IT training program is not just a choice; it's a responsibility. Their success in this digital age is our collective achievement, and by supporting them, we pave the way for a brighter future for us all," said Kendall Panther Bone, Siksika Nation councillor.

IT trainees were guided by Tech Council volunteers during the installation of the large-scale Wi-Fi enterprise system, which included frequency planning, pulling and dressing cable, mounting

access points, and software programming.

The training course was designed to help those who are interested in IT to gain a better understanding of the field, and reinforce whether a trainee may wish to further pursue education or a career in IT.

Beyond the system installation, the IT training program is reported to have empowered Siksika Nation to manage the new Sunpark system, as well as the majority of its other IT and internet services.

"By creating and supporting opportunities for people to gain and practice fundamental skills, they are equipped such that we no longer need to outsource this valuable work," said Jennifer Kohlhammer, Blackfoot Tech Council co-founder and director. "It's a grassroots initiative, by Siksika for Siksika, and it's working – our trainees are equipped from start to finish to address the information technology needs and priorities of the community."

As of June 2023, 56 Siksika Nation community members, high school students, and Siksika IT specialists had completed IT Fundamentals and IT Core skills training programs to-date, in partnership with Computing Technology Industry Association, Braintoy, and InceptionU.

Many of the students also reported to have completed practicum placements with Siksika Nation departments and partnering organizations for hands-on work experience.

The current training program underway, which began Oct. 2, is scheduled for completion at the end of March.

NEXT HOME GAMES

Saturday, November 25 • 8 pm vs Cochrane
Saturday, December 2 • 8 pm vs High River

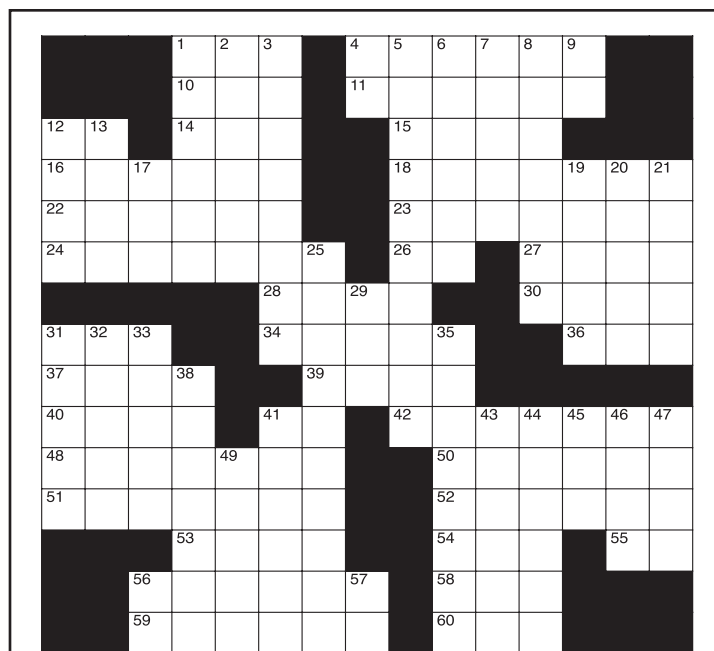
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- Gold Arena**

Nov 11
Philip Raycroft

PLAYER OF THE GAME

Nov 12
O'Shea Red Crow

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CLUES ACROSS

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| 1. Beats per minute | 37. One of two equal parts of a divisible whole |
| 4. Hindu deity | 39. Italian archaeological site |
| 10. Polynesian garland of flowers | 40. Cold appetizer |
| 11. Not chained to | 41. Yes |
| 12. Metric ton | 42. Peninsula |
| 14. Tall, rounded vase | 48. Of that |
| 15. Musical composition | 50. A way to divide |
| 16. St. Francis of ___ | 51. Relating to the physical senses |
| 18. Discover the location of | 52. One who makes money |
| 22. Compact group of mountains | 53. ___ Spumante (Italian wine) |
| 23. Mend | 54. Inconvenience (abbr.) |
| 24. Not current | 55. South Dakota |
| 26. Atomic #64 | 56. Snow sport |
| 27. Young hawk | 58. The products of human creativity |
| 28. Or ___ | 59. Change mind |
| 30. Pouches | 60. Born of |
| 31. Southern Thailand isthmus | |
| 34. Mends with yarn | |
| 36. Downwinds | |

CLUES DOWN

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Similar to the color of a clear unclouded sky | 25. Clearing up |
| 2. Former name of Iran | 29. No seats available |
| 3. Made smaller | 31. Leaves of an Arabian shrub |
| 4. Type of meter | 32. Groove in organ or tissue |
| 5. Revolt | 33. Not of this world |
| 6. Killed with rocks | 35. Cooking device |
| 7. Gregory __, US dancer | 38. Forget |
| 8. Nullifies | 41. Operational flight |
| 9. Home to the Flyers | 43. Actress Danes |
| 12. Female parent | 44. Poke holes in |
| 13. Pre-1917 Russian emperor | 45. A way to discolor |
| 17. Outsourcing (abbr.) | 46. Shouts of welcome or farewell |
| 19. Regal | 47. Pharrell's group |
| 20. Line | 49. Red fluorescent dye |
| 21. Hermann __, author of "Siddhartha" | 56. Jr.'s dad |
| | 57. Electronics firm |

STRATHMORE TIMES

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Thank you to the Strathmore U16C Ringette team for volunteering your time for the conference.



We look forward to seeing you all in 2025!



Comedian Andrew Packer makes debut performance in Strathmore

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Canadian comedian, Andrew Packer made his debut performance in Strathmore, Nov. 11, at Mike's Bar and Grill, as part of his ongoing On Guard tour.

Packer is currently touring Canada with fellow comedian Marc Anthony Sinagoga as a co-headliner, as opposed to one act "opening" for another.

"We love Alberta; we have toured in Alberta more than any province and so we love going to every single town that has a solid venue that will have us out in the community," said Packer. "We got chatting with Mike, and he just seemed really gung-ho for the whole event, so having a venue like that in your town makes us think, 'let's do it.'"

Packer explained he has been doing stand-up comedy for nine years, with the idea to do so being nurtured as a youth while watching Just for Laughs and listening to comedy albums.

Following the start of his career, falling in love with stand-up after participating in an open mic night, Packer started a life in Toronto to pursue the career path.

"I just got married, so I do a lotta stuff about marriage right now, I talk about my relationship, and all those fun challenges that come with learn-

ing to live together and all that fun stuff. I do a lot of observational humour and I really enjoy doing a lot of crowd work as well," he said. "The thrill of growing and changing and stretching yourself and connecting with all these sorts of different people and different places – I get a feel for the country that you wouldn't get in most jobs because I get to go to places that most people would not go to as a tourist destination."

Packer added one of his favourite things about comedy is being able to talk about uncomfortable or painful topics and flip them into joyful moments to share with audiences.

"I think it is the thrill, I mean, it is just, you go up there and you do not know how it is going to go anytime. It is obviously a double-edged sword, because you would like for every show to be the most amazing show, but the reality of it is, it is challenging and that keeps it exciting," he said. "The thrill of coming up with a new idea and then connecting with the audience is unlike any experience that I have had in life and it is hard to compare to anything. It is such a euphoric experience."

Packer recently released his debut comedy special, "On Guard," being a double entendre, about a joke about lifeguards and tipping his hat to Canada. Links to watch the special are available on his social media platforms.

I get a feel for the country that you wouldn't get in most jobs because I get to go to places that most people would not go to

Andrew Packer

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Fun Runners make \$1,000 donation to Christmas Hamper Society, Wheatland County Food Bank



The Strathmore Fun Runners made a \$1,000 donation to both the Strathmore Christmas Hamper Society, and the Wheatland County Food Bank. The donations were raised through their annual car show at Kinsmen Park, which was held in July.

John Watson Photos

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Strathmore Fun Runners made a \$1,000 donation to each of the local Christmas Hamper Society, and the Wheatland County Food Bank.

Cheques were presented to the respective organizations during the regular Fun Runners meeting, Nov. 9, prior to regular club business being addressed.

According to Terry Montford, who spoke on behalf of the Fun Runners, the money was raised during the annual car show hosted at Kinsmen Park in July.

"We had invited a member of the food bank and a member of the Christmas Hamper Society down to receive cheques, and then we carried on with our meetings," he said. "That was through our car show in July at (Kinsmen) Park. We managed to be able to give \$4,000 away – \$2,000 to the women's shelter, and \$1,000 each to the food bank and Christmas hamper."

The Fun Runners' donations to the food bank and Christmas Hamper Society were made this month, rather than immediately following the car show, as Montford explained the club first needed to ensure their own expenses were accounted for, prior to making their donations back into the community.

Brian Allemang, who collected the donation on behalf of the Christmas Hamper Society, said the organization was grateful to receive all the extra support they can get, particularly with the holiday season around the corner.

"If it wasn't for the businesses and the community ... in town here, there wouldn't be an organization like this here," he said.

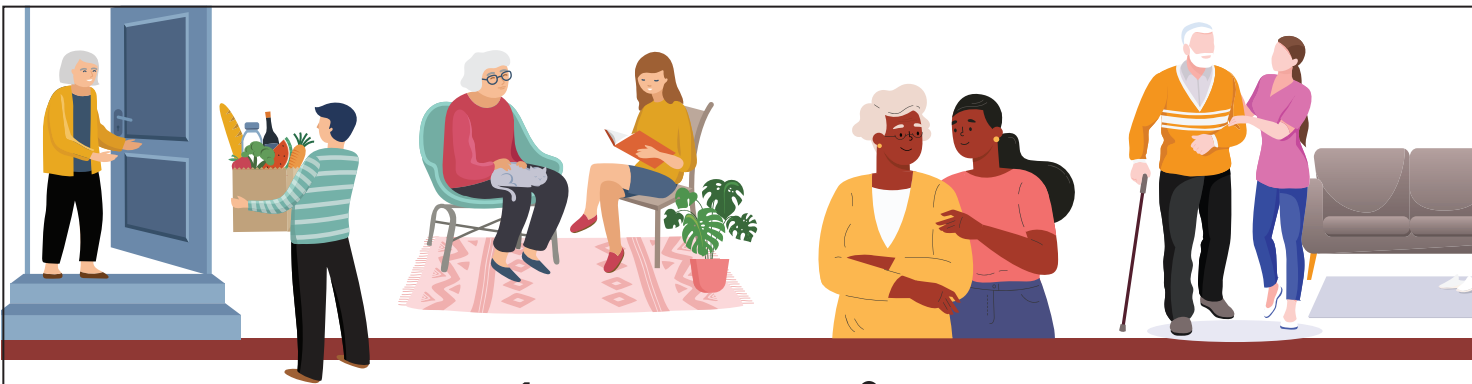
Allemang explained typically during the Christmas Hamper Society's first three weeks of operation, food and donations are typically collected from businesses, and schools are visited during the first week of December.

"The hampers are usually made up ... towards the end of the month and it goes by members of each family ... the distribution this year is going to be on the 16th of December and the 18th of December," he said. "I would say we will distribute probably around 350 hampers this year. I might be a little high, but I have no idea what it's going to be like this year."

Lynnette Aschenbrenner, executive director for the Wheatland County Food Bank, said she is excited to see so much community support coming in, as well as to receive help once again from the Fun Runners.

"It is great to have all the community support and we just love everything that the Fun Runners are about. They're about supporting the community and we love the car show ... it's a great, great thing to be a part of," she said. "The Fun Runners have done this for us before. They have their annual car show every year and they pick a different charity all the time. We have been their charity before, so we are honoured to have been picked once again."

Both the Christmas Hamper Society and food bank are continuing to seek both volunteers and contributions to support their efforts through the upcoming holiday season. Information about how to support both is available via their respective websites.



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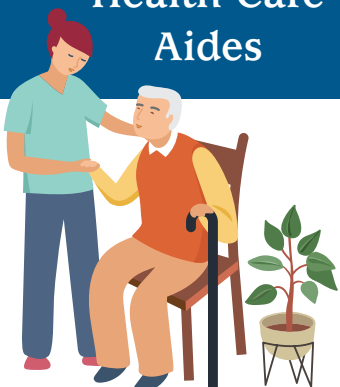
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Wheatland remembers

Wheatland Elementary School held their annual Remembrance Day ceremony on Thursday, Nov. 9. The school gym was packed with students and parents paying homage to the veterans who have fought for our freedom as the students placed poppies on the cross.

Melissa Piche Photos

Sacred Heart Parish extends a huge THANK YOU to all the following businesses and people who donated to our successful Auction & Dinner Fundraiser on November 4, 2023:

Cattleland Feedyards Ltd. Karen & Joe Gregory; Eagle Lake Nurseries Ltd, Anita Heuver; Doug & Karen Van Verdegem; Gregory, Harriman & Associates LLP, John Gauvin; Bernie & Jacki Weir; Paul & Wendy Cey; Lynn & Marc Doucet Maguet; Rita Sweere; Wheatland Funeral Home, Glenn Van Bussel; Father Cristiano Bouvette; Dorothy Bodeux; Joy Jorgensen; Shawna Lowe Loftus, Luke Loftus Memorial Hope Fund; Strathmore & District Agricultural Society, Ryan Schmidt; Christ The Redeemer Catholic School Division; Sacred Heart Academy; Holy Cross Collegiate; Sole Discretion, Jocelyn Osachuk; Derek & Connie Donais; Dan & Meaghan Patterson; Barbara Feradi; SLIK Services, Sheldon Kuhn; Daniel Hendricks; FYI Doctors, Dr. Michelle Duke; Graff's House of Flowers, Naomi Graff; Ron & Bea Corbiell; Paul & Sandy O'Leary; Naomi & Nick Graff; Katie & Josh Jalbert; Celine & Leo Helfrich; John & Maria Homem; Abby & Bryce Fowler; Ken & Ruth Van Bavel; Marita Santos; Thea Boringa Bongo; Kathleen Szeman; Ray & Diane Van Bavel; Paulette Chotowetz; Jon & Angela Reeves; Strathmore Value Drug Mart; Strathmore Dental Centre, Dr. Hugh Kennedy; Strathmore Golf Club, Brian Bassen; Outlier Mercantile, Kailey & Bev Prescott; Rosie's Girls Cleaning Service; Tashina & Dan Mackenzie; Terry-Jo Toth Interior Designs; Mechthilde Rodehuts Kors; Vera Hermanson; Dianne Gartner; Mardelle Bazant; Lavern & Darcee Evans; Hob's Hobbies, John & Nathalie Hilton O'Brien; Paul & Nancy Coderre; Jo-Anne & Keenan Hauck; Mary Hendricks; Chris & Sarah Everett; Trudy & Wendell Crosby; John & Madonna Kalbhen; Laurie Keeler; Jim & Joan Chisholm; Codie Chisholm; Kathie L. Zakresky; Lynn & Chris Dumont; Slavka & Leo Aleksic; Kendra DeJong; Josie Peters; Strathmore Calgary Coop; Heather & Winston Britto; Anne & Fred Munchrath; Michael & Veronica Rochford; Angie Wolper; Rhonda Stockwell; Western District Historical Society; Strathmore Theatre Player's Guild; Katherine's Pottery, Katherine Smith; Deb Klics; Karen Dolson; Janice Pederson; Lucy Fiedler; Nanette & Mitch Maga; Darlene Tetarenko; Brandy Hebbes; Ken Seitz; Rob Gray; Donna Gauthier; Josh & Suzie Spies; Helen & Bruce Stewart; Elisabeth MacDonald; Sarah & Joel Goodfellow; Anne Bailey; Cheryl & Leon Exner; Anita & Ed Frost; Alex & Terry-Jo Toth; Suzie Gauthier; Alfar Lawn Care Services; Donna & Ron Johnson; Mary Kruse; Amanda & Jason Maunsell; Vera McCarthy; Vic & Jen Meyer; Emily & Tomas Rochford; Gail & Tony Weyers; Christi Shworak; Harry & Gorete Salm; Catering by LaRue; and all the amazing volunteers who donated their time and talent to help make this event a success.

Special Thanks to: Auctioneer Grant Klaiber, Mason Cockx and his crew, Deborah Cockx, Cam & Brenda Wright and Fred & Marilyn Rappel; thank you for donating your expertise, time, talent and materials.

To everyone who volunteered and participated in supporting our Auction & Dinner Fundraiser THANK YOU!!



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.

- November 21: Council Meeting**
- November 28: Committee of the Whole**
- December 5: Council Meeting**

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

ASB Environmental Stewardship AWARDS

Do you know someone who cares about their environmental footprint, or goes above and beyond to benefit our Wheatland County landscape in some way?
Nominate them for an Award!

Community Stewardship Award

This award recognizes a Wheatland County community member or group that has made an outstanding contribution to environmental sustainability in the municipality. All Wheatland County residents or community groups are eligible for this award.

Youth Stewardship Award

This award will be given to an individual or group of individuals under the age of eighteen who have shown leadership or strong interest in environmental stewardship. Wheatland County residents, community groups, and school groups are eligible for this award.

J. Laslo Legacy Award

This award will be given to an agricultural producer in Wheatland County who has shown leadership in the implementation of beneficial management practices. The winner is dedicated to reducing the environmental impacts of their operation, and has an interest in promoting positive efforts to others in the industry.

Award recipients will have their name added to a plaque displayed at the County office, and they will receive a \$250 cash prize!

Nomination Information

Submit nominations by **January 1st, 2024**
Contact the Wheatland Agriculture & Environment Department:
Ph: 403-361-2000
Email: AgandEnv@wheatlandcounty.ca

For more information
wheatlandcounty.ca/documents/environmentalstewardshipawards.ca



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If you're interested or have questions, please call or email Mark Romaniuk, Deputy Regional Fire Chief at 403-361-2165 or mark.romaniuk@wheatlandcounty.ca



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



OPEN LETTER TO ALBERTANS AND HEALTH CARE WORKERS

Alberta is refocusing our health care system on patient-centred care

Alberta's government is taking significant action to make health care better for Albertans and frontline workers who work tirelessly every day to serve their patients.

We are at a critical time when it comes to health care in Alberta.

We have heard clearly from Albertans that the current system centred on Alberta Health Services (AHS) is not working. The AHS organization is shouldering a burden it was not intended to carry and, through no fault of our incredible front-line workers, Albertans are facing long wait times and delays to the care they desperately need.

Alberta's government has announced a significant refocusing of AHS and our health care system. The improvements we are making will provide more effective care and will improve frontline service delivery for Albertans.

This refocusing will centre around four priority areas: primary care, acute care, continuing care, and mental health and addiction to ensure Albertans get the health care system that actually works for them.

Additionally, we will focus on improving EMS wait times and the delivery of Indigenous health care services across the province.

Health care services will be accessed as they usually are during the system's transition period.

We know frontline health care workers provide exceptional care to patients and families and our priority is to protect frontline jobs during this transition and ensure all voices are heard.

To our health care workers, the work ahead will take time. We will partner with you to learn and find ways to best remove the many obstacles you face while working to serve Albertans and their families.

To all Albertans, we also want to hear from you: the patients, family members, caregivers and seniors who interact with our system day in and day out.

That's why we invite all Albertans to become involved in shaping a stronger provincial health care system. This starts now and will take many forms over the coming weeks and months.

For too long we have had to experience a health care system that is not operating as we all expect it should. It's time for that to change. Please join us on this journey!



Hon. Danielle Smith
Premier of Alberta



Hon. Adriana LaGrange
Minister of Health



Hon. Dan Williams
Minister of Mental Health
and Addiction



Hon. Jason Nixon
Minister of Seniors,
Community and
Social Services

For more information, and to share your feedback, visit:

alberta.ca/healthcare





Tremendous tourney

The Strathmore Minor Hockey Association hosted their annual U13 hockey tournament Nov. 10-12 at the Strathmore Family Centre, Standard Arena and the Gleichen Arena. The Strathmore Storm Tier 2 team won the bronze medal while the Strathmore Storm Tier 4 and Tier 6 teams each won silver.

Joe Lepage Photos



Strathmore Storm T2



Strathmore Storm T6



Strathmore Storm T6



Strathmore Storm T4



Strathmore Storm T4



Strathmore Storm T2



Strathmore Storm T4



Strathmore Storm T2



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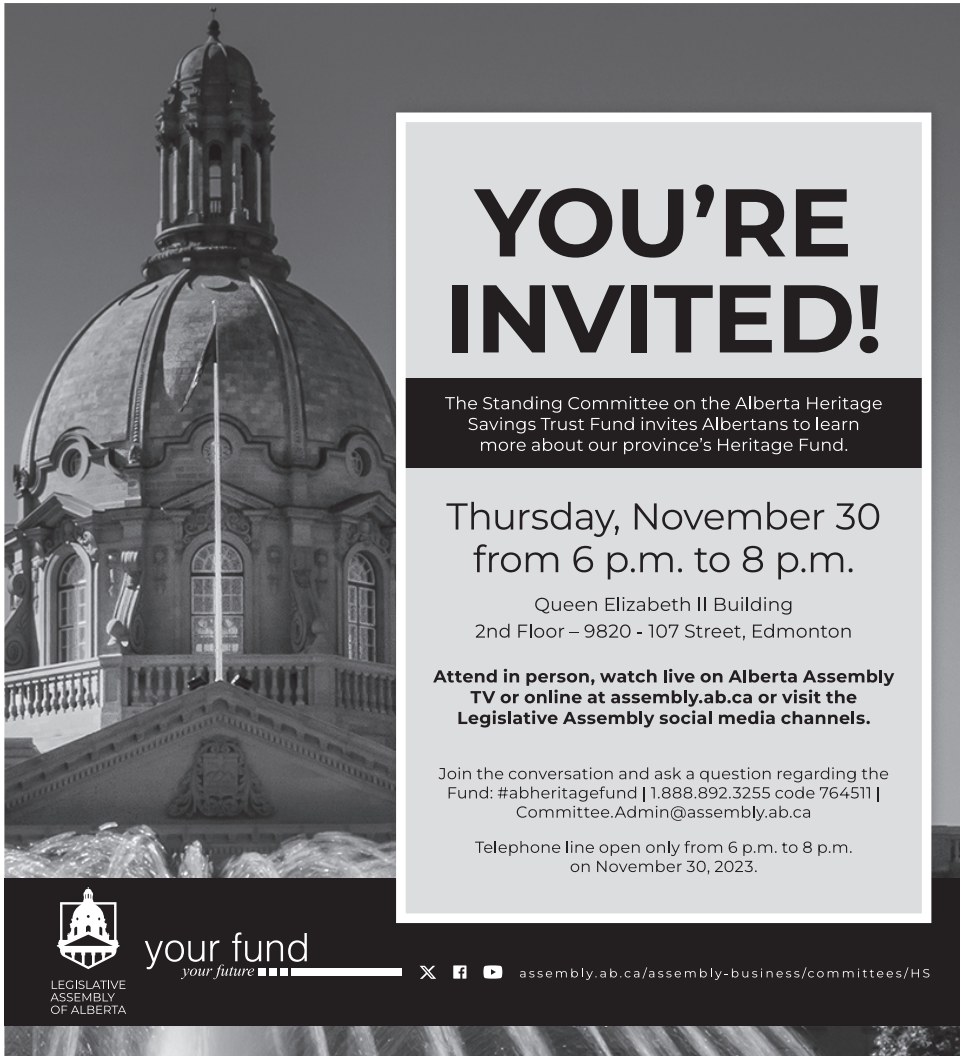
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YOU'RE INVITED!

The Standing Committee on the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund invites Albertans to learn more about our province's Heritage Fund.


**Thursday, November 30
from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.**

Queen Elizabeth II Building
2nd Floor – 9820 - 107 Street, Edmonton

Attend in person, watch live on Alberta Assembly TV or online at assembly.ab.ca or visit the Legislative Assembly social media channels.

Join the conversation and ask a question regarding the Fund: #abheritagefund | 1.888.892.3255 code 764511 | Committee.Admin@assembly.ab.ca

Telephone line open only from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on November 30, 2023.



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RCMP enters new program

STRATHMORE RCMP

On June 12, the Alberta RCMP announced the rollout of a voluntary surveillance camera registry program, called CAPTURE (Community Assisted Policing Through the Use of Recorded Evidence) was available province wide.

Strathmore RCMP Detachment is active within the program and would like to encourage area residents to sign up.

Residents and businesses who have video surveillance, and are willing to share video camera footage when requested, can sign up. This initiative won't replace officers from knocking on doors, but it will help officers track down video evidence in ongoing criminal investigations in RCMP jurisdictions.

The program aims to reduce the time an officer needs to search for and gather video evidence when conducting an investigation. The CAPTURE program allows a person or business to upload a portion of the video requested. This allows the officer to evaluate the video footage before deciding to ask for a copy.

To get started, visit www.ruralalberta-capture.ca and create an account. From there you can enter your contact information and video cameras on the secure site. Your information is not available to the public. If an officer needs to contact you, they will do so by the information provided.

Things to know about the program:

- This is completely voluntary and consent can be withdrawn at any time;
- Registering a camera and contact information allows the RCMP to see a list of security cameras so they can contact the owners during an investigation;
- The video footage on your camera remains your property;
- The RCMP will not have live access to your camera feed. We will only ask for videos already recorded;
- You can share your video footage through the website for an officer to view before they decide if the video will help in their investigation; and
- An officer can provide you with a USB thumb drive to copy your video. An officer cannot download the video; they can only view it.

This strategy is another way the Alberta RCMP are working with our communities to help solve crime faster, together. By providing video footage to police during an investigation, communities increase the chance of a successful prosecution.

"With the increased use of doorbell cameras, residential video surveillance, and existing business cameras; our residents and business owners are well-positioned to help solve crime in our community," said S/Sgt. Mark Wielgosz – Detachment Commander Strathmore RCMP.

Continued on Page 13

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2023

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Strathmore local publishes debut book

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Strathmore local Tiffany Hutorow has self-published her debut children's book, *The Bear, The Hare, and The Mare*, which is now publicly available for purchase.

Hutorow explained the book started as a rhyming exercise with her young children as they were running errands over the summer, which quickly inspired her to write the book.

"It is about kindness and compassion, and it is about a bear with no hair, and a hare that cares and she goes out of her way and is brave and helps this bear get some outerwear before winter and goes on this adventure and helps some other animals along the way," she said. "It has been a really cool learning curve, and it has definitely inspired me to want to make more books. It has been fun."

She added she was inspired to take up writing from reading bedtime stories to her children and did not hesitate to try something new, particularly as a family project.

From beginning to published, the project was completed in roughly three months, and has been publicly available since late October.

"I am a go-getter. I actually have already had a business in Strathmore – I had a stable and that kind of ran its course, and then once I had kids and I started to read with (them) at bedtime, I got inspired to just start a new chapter ... and make something that is a little bit of a legacy item and that we could read together as a family, and have something that we could look at together in the future as well," said Hutorow. "There are lots of different ways to go, and I actually self-published, but I hired an editor, and then I also knew some friends who went through the traditional publishing methods and heard some pros and cons about that ... so far, the self-publishing route has been pretty good."

The book was also illustrated by Hutorow and her husband, who have maintained an appreciation for art. She explained neither of the two of them have formal artistic training or background, they simply enjoy doing arts and crafts with their toddlers.

Excited about having gone through the self-publishing process, Hutorow said she wants to continue writing children's books.

"I would like to do my next book on grief ... tar-



Tiffany Hutorow is proud to announce the publication of her first book, *The Bear, The Hare and The Mare*. The children's book is available via Amazon and may see local distribution.

Photo Courtesy of Tiffany Hutorow

geted towards children, just because unfortunately, kids have to go through the grief process when either a pet or a loved one passes away," she said. "It has been lots of learning experiences, and you just kind of have to be consistent, especially when I work, and I have little kids, and we have a farm, and so you just kind of have to stay persistent or else it will be something on your desktop sitting there collecting electronic dust."

Nothing has yet been set in stone as far as local distribution is concerned, though *The Bear, The Hare, and The Mare* is available for purchase through Amazon.

Hutorow has also expressed interest in illustrating a Christmas-themed edition of her book.

RCMP investigate shooting in Chestermere

ALBERTA RCMP

On Nov. 12, at 10:57 p.m., Chestermere RCMP received a report of a shooting. Initial reports indicate that the victim was shot in his vehicle by unknown individuals. The victim was able to drive to the Chestermere RCMP detachment where he was met by EMS and transported to hospital with non-life threatening injuries. An additional person in the vehicle was uninjured.

RCMP have deployed the Southern Alberta District General Investigative Section to assist with the investigation.

RCMP believe that the shooting occurred in the area of Meganser Drive

in Chestermere and the suspects were driving a dark coloured pick-up truck.

RCMP ask that area residents check their vehicle, residential and commercial surveillance and report any suspicious activity.

The motive for this crime is currently unknown.

If you have an information about this crime or those responsible, please call the Chestermere RCMP at 403-204-8900 or your local police. If you wish to remain anonymous you can contact Crime Stoppers by phone at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS), by Internet at www.tipsubmit.com or by SMS (check your local Crime Stoppers www.crimestoppers.ab.ca for instructions).

New program to help RCMP investigations

Continued from Page 12

"Whether it be property crimes, auto theft, mischief, collisions, or missing persons, the ability to obtain video evidence in a timely manner can make the difference in an investigation. I would

like to encourage our area residents and business owners to take a few moments to sign up and help keep our communities safe."

For more information on this program, or to sign up, please visit their website (www.ruralalbertacapture.ca).

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STRATHMORE **TIMES**

PRAIRIE DEBUT



A time to reflect
George Freeman School hosted their annual Remembrance Day ceremony on Nov. 9 at the school. Staff invited George Freeman's daughter and son to take part in the ceremony. **Joe Lepage Photos**

Obituary



DROOG, Johannes (John) Theodorus
April 5, 1939
- November 2, 2023

On Thursday, November 2, 2023 Mr. Johannes Droog of Calgary, Alberta, formerly of Strathmore, Alberta passed away at the age of 84 years.

Johannes (John) Theodorus Droog was born April 5, 1939 in de Beemster, Netherlands. He is survived by his sister Nel, and brothers Wil, Luuk, Tom, Cor and Pim. Also cherishing his memory are numerous nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his parents and his sister Sjaan.

John went to agricultural school in Hoorn, Holland. When he was 18, John trained in the Dutch army for two years. After that, he immigrated to Australia in 1959. John worked at a Nunnery, working on their farm. While in Australia, John started working at Franki Pile Construction. This career brought him all over the world. He moved from Australia to Africa, but was not there long. In 1968 John returned to Holland continuing to work construction with heavy machinery. In 1978 John's brother Tom sponsored him to come to Canada.

John settled in Strathmore, Alberta. As a lifelong bachelor, he loved his farm and took pride in planting trees there and was a very hard worker. In retirement, John lived for enjoying coffee with his friends every morning where they talked about the weather, the price of coffee, current events and the latest gossip. He loved playing crib. John was very active and walked daily. He never cooked a meal a day in his life. John was a world traveler and loved taking cruises. He marched to the beat of his own drum, coming and going like the wind. Make no mistake, John quietly enjoyed his life but was not boastful.

John enjoyed spending time with his only Canadian family at holidays, driving in his red VW Golf bearing a whip cream cake from the Dutch Bakery to share with Tom and his family.

John lived a quiet and unassuming life. He enjoyed his family gatherings in Holland and had friends to visit no matter where he stayed. John spent many weeks with Tom and his niece Christy fundraising and building orphanages in Guatemala and Peru over a number of years. John worked hard no matter the task at hand. He liked to laugh. John was humble, kind, loving, and of course, stubborn too.

The last five years of John's life were spent living at Sagewood in Strathmore and Bethany Riverview in Calgary. John's family would like to express gratitude for all of the caregivers involved in his late years of his life, providing exemplary care and warmth. During visits to his "home" John was happy to see Tom and Christy, even when he failed to remember them, but always asked them to come back soon. It was during this time of uncertainty in his life, John allowed himself vulnerability as he held the hand of whomever was willing to walk with him in the last two years. His days, though quiet, echoed with the fullness of contentment, teaching us that a life need not be loud to be profoundly filled with rich experiences. Rest in peace John.

A Celebration of Life will be held for John at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch #10, 230 - 2 Avenue, Strathmore, Alberta on Friday, April 5, 2024 (time still to be determined). Cremation has taken place at the Foothills Crematorium.

Messages of condolence may be forwarded to the family at www.piersons.ca



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Town reviews local levies bylaw

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Town of Strathmore council, during the Nov. 8 Committee of the Whole meeting, heard a report regarding the current Off Site Levy Bylaw.

The town's current bylaw is in use in order to assist in the cost burden of new development being placed on those directly impacted, rather than on existing tax payers.

Local municipal administration presented to council during the committee of the whole meeting with the aim of helping to encourage both council and the public to better understand the by-

law, the most recent study, and how the town compares with other municipalities.

"From the (most recent off site levy report, which is dated Nov. 2020), and from discussions with council, the levy rates that we currently have in By-law 2-07 range between \$113,000 and \$168,000 depending on the area," said Ethan Wilson, manager of infrastructure for the Town of Strathmore. "We have three benefitting areas of the town; we have the Northeast, the Northwest and the South, and the reason that the levy rates change throughout those areas is due to sanitary and storm water requirements."

Wilson explained in the Northwest area, indicated to council during the report, which is publicly available for viewing online, there is a need for future stormwater sanitary services because there is currently not a lot in the area.

In the Northeast, there is some need for sanitary services, however, the town does have existing infrastructure already in place. The stormwater solution is different from the Northwest region, which Wilson noted to be slightly cheaper as well.

In the South region of town, sanitary services were not indicated by Wilson to be an issue, as there is a main trunk line that is able to be tied into.

"Water and transportation are a need for all areas of town and they are shared equally, and in the South, they also share in that new stormwater solution," said Wilson. "In terms of payment of levies, what we require now is, 30 per cent of the levies are due at the time of the development agreement. Basically, whenever a development agreement comes in, it gets approved and an agreement is put in place between the developer and the town, we expect 30 per cent of the levies for that area to be paid."

As construction is completed on respective projects, an additional 30 per cent of the levies are expected to be paid, however a timeline exists on that payment, stating that the town must be paid within two years of the development agreement being signed.

The remaining 40 per cent of the levies must be paid within three years of the signing of the development agreement for any respective project.

More information regarding municipal levies and the local bylaw is available via the Nov. 8 Committee of the Whole meeting, as well as via the associated meeting agenda.

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NOTICE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Thurs., November 16, 2023
Calgary Stockyards, Cafeteria Area • 7 PM

Members and Guests.
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Upcoming Council Meetings

November 14, 2023 | 6 P.M.

Regular Meeting of Council (Budget Meeting)

November 15, 2023 | 6 P.M.

Regular Meeting of Council

November 16, 2023 | 6 P.M.

Regular Meeting of Council (Budget Meeting)

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.



Thank you Royal Canadian Legion Strathmore-Branch #10 and all those who attended the November 11th Remembrance Day ceremony.

Lest we forget.



Low-Income Senior's Property Tax Rebate Program

Applications due November 30th



The Seniors Property Tax Rebate program is a compassionate initiative designed to support low-income senior property owners through a small tax rebate.

What to bring when you apply:

- Copy of current (2023) property tax statement;
- Copy of 2022 Personal Income Tax Notice of Assessment for both the applicant and spouse;

Qualifications:

- Applicant must be 65 years of age or older;
- Applicant must be the registered homeowner on title;
- Applicant must reside in the home.
- Applicant and spouse/partners annual gross household income is the same as or less than the income thresholds set by the Government of Alberta based on line 15000 of the tax year notice of assessment;
- Applicants property taxes are in good standing.

Deadline to apply:

- Applications must be made before November 30th of the tax year being applied for.

To learn more, call FCSS at 403.934.9090 or visit their office at the Strathmore Municipal Building.

STRATHMORE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS

Winter magic returns on November 25, 2023.

We'll be sharing more information soon. Keep your eyes on Strathmore.ca/SOC

