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VOLUME 18 ISSUE 41

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Page 2



Big weekend

Page 6



Breaking ground

State of
the Region

MELISSA CRISPIN-PICHE
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Business growth, regional investment and the challenges facing local employers brought business owners and elected officials together Oct. 8 for the Strathmore and Wheatland Chamber of Commerce's first State of the Region event.

The room was filled with business owners and chamber members, alongside community representatives and local leaders. Strathmore Mayor Pat Fule and town council members attended, as did Wheatland County Reeve Scott Klassen and county council members. MLA Chantelle de Jonge also addressed the gathering.

A business survey helped set the stage for the event. In an interview beforehand, chamber chair Coby Royal said the idea grew out of a business walk that asked owners what was working, where they needed help and how the community could better support them.

"We really wanted to bring people together," Royal said.

The resulting report put those responses on paper, giving the chamber a starting point for conversations about what businesses need to succeed.

Throughout the evening, speakers connected that local feedback with a broader discussion about investment, municipal planning and the resources available to employers.

The speakers began with a recorded message from MP David Bexte who unfortunately couldn't attend in person due to being in Parliament. His message was clear as he strongly supports events like this, having businesses and local governments gather to promote and help Alberta's economy thrive.

de Jonge highlighted major projects in the region, including De Havilland's aerospace development and CGC's wallboard plant in Wheatland County. She also pointed to a planned \$225-million investment in a new facility in Strathmore.

Those developments offered reasons for optimism, she said, while uncertainty surrounding Canada-U.S. trade continued to put pressure on businesses.

"Tariffs and counter tariffs, they raise costs, they disrupt supply chains, and they make it harder for businesses to plan ahead," she said.

Continued on Page 3



A moment to shine!

Indigenous students in Grades 1-12 showcased their talents and culture at the Princess and Warrior Pageant, hosted by Golden Hills School Division on Oct. 7 at Strathmore High School. Participants from schools across Strathmore and Wheatland County stepped into the spotlight to compete for the titles of Princess and Warrior. For more coverage see Page 10.

Melissa Crispin-Piche Photo

STRATHMORE
TIMES

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Nicole Gordon 403.934.7477



Playoff bound

The Strathmore Badgers bantam football team wrapped up their regular season against the Rocky Mountain House Rebels on Oct. 10, facing a tough 55-7 loss on the road. The Badgers will now prepare for their upcoming playoff battle against the Stettler Panthers on Oct. 17 in Stettler.

Miriam Ostermann Photos



Chantelle de Jonge
MLA, Chestermere-Strathmore

129 2nd Avenue
P. O. Box: 2527
Strathmore, AB

403-962-0126
Chestermere.Strathmore@assembly.ab.ca



Collecting points

The Agra Risk Wheatland Kings hosted the Medicine Hat Cubs at the Strathmore Family Centre on Friday, Oct. 9, falling 3-2 in overtime. The Kings bounced back with a pair of road victories, defeating the Rocky Mountain House Rams 14-2 on Saturday before earning an 8-1 win over the Rimbey Spartans on Sunday.

Joe Lepage Photos



Council hears hopeful update as Valley Medical Clinic doctors prepare to retire

MELISSA CRISPIN-PICHE
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Strathmore council heard an encouraging update about the possibility of new physicians moving into Valley Medical Clinic as its current doctors prepare to retire.

The clinic sent out a notice to its current patients and an advertisement announcing the winding down at the end of this year. The clinic has been operating for over 41 years.

They thanked the Strathmore community for their support and called it a “gift” to be able to share in people’s lives and medical journeys.

Speaking at the Oct. 7 meeting, Coun. Melissa Langmaid said the clinic had announced it would wind down operations at the end of the year. She also said an update shared that day pointed to promising developments toward a physician transition.

“It’s my understanding that they’ve shared an update today that there are some recent developments that are highly encouraging for the transition of new physicians into the Valley Medical Clinic,” Langmaid said.

Her comments offered hope for the clinic’s future, but no incoming physicians were named during the council discussion and no start date was provided.

Langmaid thanked doctors Clarke, Fanning, Lobay and Sader for their care of Strathmore residents and wished them well in retirement.

“I appreciate their commitment to our community,” she said.

Mayor Pat Fule echoed her thanks describing the clinic building as a long-standing part of the community and expressing hope that medical services would continue there.

“They’ve done an amazing job caring for the residents of the town,” Fule said.

The remarks were made during council statements, rather than a presentation from the clinic.

Council did not announce a recruitment agreement or confirm that replacement physicians had been secured.

The next details to establish are who might take over, when they could begin and how the transition would affect existing patients have yet to be announced.

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Chamber brings businesses and local leaders together at first State of the Region

Continued from Page 1

de Jonge encouraged businesses to use Alberta's tariff feedback portal to explain how those pressures were affecting their operations. She also discussed Level Up, an export resource intended to help Alberta companies reach customers elsewhere in Canada and internationally.

"So, if tariffs are impacting your businesses, please tell us we want to know," she said.

GROWTH AND COMMUNITY PRIORITIES

Mayor Pat Fule said six of Strathmore's seven council members were present, reflecting the importance council placed on the event and the chamber's work.

His presentation outlined six priorities in the town's strategic plan: community connection, managing growth, financial resilience, economic growth, protecting water and green spaces, and community safety and well-being.

Fule discussed housing, infrastructure renewal, water capacity and efforts to attract physicians. He also emphasized stronger working relationships with Wheatland County and Siksika Nation, describing opportunities for regional collaboration.

Supporting local businesses was part of that approach. Fule said council now holds its retreats in town and uses local restaurants, keeping that spending in the community.

Strathmore chief administrative officer Kevin Scoble followed with a presentation on municipal finances, taxation, growth and infrastructure.

Scoble said the town had made progress increasing reserves and reducing debt, while significant investment decisions remained ahead. He discussed planning for a new fire hall and the continuing costs of replacing infrastructure, improving accessibility and preparing for changing weather conditions.

He also explained the town's goal of moving toward a tax revenue split of 70 per cent residential and 30 per cent non-residential through business expansion and attraction.

Wheatland County's manager of financial services Joel Chiasson described an economy rooted in agriculture and energy, with opportunities in manufacturing, highway commercial development, arts and tourism.

He outlined the different roles of the county's industrial areas, the Highway 1 corridor and Rosebud, while emphasizing agriculture's continuing importance.

Chiasson also highlighted how different parts of Wheatland County contribute to the regional economy. Goldfinch Industrial Park supports manufacturing and heavy industry, while the Highway 1 corridor connects businesses with Calgary and markets farther east.

In Rosebud, the theatre and school of the arts help draw visitors and support tourism. Together, those areas offer opportunities to diversify the county's economy while maintaining the agricultural roots that continue to shape its growth.

He also emphasized agriculture and energy as the foundations of Wheatland County's economy.

He pointed to growth in farming, livestock and

cropland, while highlighting the role of Hutterite colonies and agricultural education in supporting the sector's future. The opening of an agriculture-focused school southwest of Strathmore reflected that commitment to the next generation.

Oil and gas also remain important to the county's economic sustainability, he said, with new technology creating opportunities to build on those established industries while encouraging responsible development and investment.

"Agriculture is the backbone of this camp," he concluded.

WILD ROSE OFFERS HELPING HAND

Lindsay Desroisier, business development officer with Community Futures Wild Rose, presented findings from the May business walks conducted with the Town of Strathmore, Prospect Human Services and the Chamber of Commerce.

The survey drew responses from 156 businesses, representing a 56 per cent participation rate among the town's 277 licensed businesses.

While many reported doing well, rising costs remained the leading challenge, with owners facing higher expenses for rent, utilities, supplies, insurance and wages.

Desroisier highlighted business coaching and financial tools available through Community Futures to help owners understand their costs, set prices and "we want to help you protect your margins."

BUILDING A STRONGER CHAMBER

Royal closed the evening with an update on the chamber's direction, describing its purpose as protecting, supporting and promoting local business and the regional economy.

That work includes advocacy, networking and connecting businesses with resources.

She said the volunteer board had adjusted its strategic plan to focus on realistic goals, including updated bylaws, clearer policies and procedures, improved membership records and simpler administrative systems.

"Our membership has been slowly growing, which I'm very excited about," said Royal.

The chamber is also working to make membership benefits more visible. Royal said a members' gathering was being considered for around Nov. 23, with the Alberta Chamber of Commerce invited to explain the resources available.

She encouraged members to consider how they could support one another, whether through social media, professional advice or services.

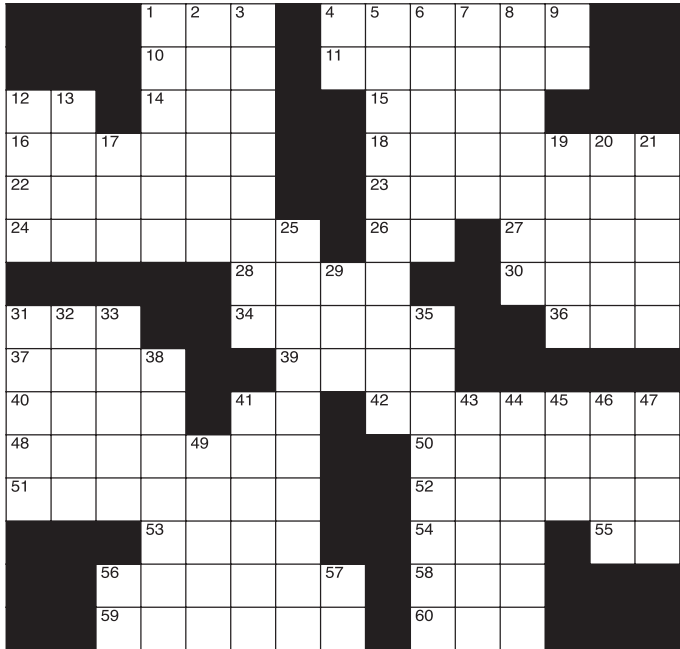
The chamber's plans include six events over the coming year. Among them are the annual cookie walk, business excellence awards in January 2027, a job fair with Prospect Human Services and an AGM in May 2027.

After the presentations, organizers replaced the planned panel discussion with an opportunity for attendees to approach speakers directly, ask questions and connect over refreshments.

More information on what the chamber has to offer, Prospect Human Services and also Community Futures Wild Rose can be found on their websites.

Strathmore and Wheatland County's future was the focus of the Strathmore and District Chamber of Commerce's inaugural State of the Region event on Oct. 8 at the Strathmore Civic Centre, bringing community leaders together to discuss regional priorities and future opportunities.

Melissa Crispin-Piche Photos



CLUES ACROSS

1. Small Eurasian deer

4. Province in Northern Ireland

10. A major division of geological time

11. Broadway actor Lane

12. Canadian province (abbr.)

14. Human gene

15. Two

16. A notable one was "blue"

18. Utter repeatedly

22. Ring-shaped objects

23. Sullies

24. Occurs

26. Commercial

27. Near

28. Tools you may need

30. A pledge

31. They start the alphabet

34. Silk garments
36. Soviet Socialist Republic

37. Longtime mayor of Rio

39. Hot meal

40. A type of gin

41. Atomic #84

42. \$10 bill

48. About ground

50. Medicine man

51. Seedless raisin

52. National capital of Albania

53. Appendage

54. OJ trial judge

55. European government entity (abbr.)

56. Bike parts

58. Friend to "Barbie"

59. Stretched to see or hear

60. Commercials

CLUES DOWN

1. Make up for

2. Baltimore ballplayer

3. Wages

4. International organization of countries

5. Engravers of gems

6. Declared as fact

7. One who steals

8. Jewelry

9. Hospital worker

12. Nonsense (slang)

13. Town in Galilee

17. Value

19. Alternative identity

20. Sheep in their second year

21. Town in Surrey, England

25. Appropriate to a time of year
29. Creative work

31. Recesses

32. Largely forested municipality in Germany

33. Rider of Rohan

35. Ancient symbol co-opted by Nazis

38. Pioneer

41. Scribe

43. Painted a bright color

44. Member of British nobility

45. "Pulp Fiction" actress Thurman

46. Helps people walk

47. Crest of a hill

49. People of southeastern Alaska

56. One's own device

57. The Mount Rushmore State

STRATHMORE

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Mario Prusina Publisher

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Kristina Bezic Financial Manager

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STRATHMORE WHEATLAND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Growing Alberta

CHANTELLE DE JONGE
Chestermere-Strathmore MLA

Strong communities, reliable health care, and an economy ready to seize new opportunities mean a prosperous Alber-

ta for generations to come. Last week, nearly \$8 billion in federal defence investment was announced, reinforcing Alberta's role in Canada's security while creating major opportunities for workers and businesses. Our government is also taking action to guide responsible neighbourhood growth and strengthen health care through a new agreement with Alberta physicians and additional investment in primary health care.

Canadian military bases and defence industries in Alberta are receiving a major boost. Almost \$8 billion in federal funding will support defence projects across the province, including \$550 million to make Alberta the western home base for the Royal Canadian Air Force's CC-330 Husky fleet. The investment is expected to create up to 38,000 jobs and strengthen Alberta's aerospace, advanced manufacturing, and technology industries. Alberta's government will continue investing in schools, health care, highways, and workforce training to make sure communities are ready for this growth.

Our government is also stepping in to make sure new housing growth respects the neighbourhoods Albertans already call home. Edmonton will have three months to restore previous rules for housing density, building height, and on-site parking following zoning changes that allowed more high-density development in established neighbourhoods. Calgary will continue with its current approach after city council repealed blanket rezoning earlier this year. Both cities will review land-use rules and consult residents so new housing meets local infrastructure and neighbourhood needs. As Alberta continues to lead the country in new home construction, our government wants to ensure this growth is managed responsibly.

Our government has also reached an important agreement with Alberta's physicians. Doctors represented by the Alberta Medical Association have voted to ratify a new master agreement with the province, providing a stable framework for physician compensation and the delivery of medical services. The new deal offers competitive pay while helping maintain a sustainable, publicly-funded health care system. It also supports ongoing efforts to improve access to care for Albertans. With the agreement now ratified, our government can continue working with Alberta doctors to strengthen physician services and improve patient care.

In addition, Alberta's government is investing \$10 million to test and expand new ideas to improve access to primary care. Through the Primary Care Innovation Fund, organizations can develop new approaches that connect patients with regular care sooner, improve transitions from hospital to

home, and reduce avoidable emergency room visits. Previous projects have already delivered more than 630 virtual appointments in 28 communities and helped screen 130 infants for hip dysplasia using portable ultrasound technology. Applications for the next round of funding will close Nov. 2.

Our government is investing \$2 million in 14 community programs that help prevent youth suicide and connect young people with support close to home. These projects focus on early intervention, stronger relationships, life skills, and access to local mental health resources. Since 2024, Youth Suicide Prevention Grant funding has supported more than 3,200 young Albertans. By investing in community organizations that already know the young people they serve, our government is helping more youth get support before they reach a crisis. I am pleased to share that the Trellis Society for Community Impact in Strathmore was one of the grant recipients and received \$175,000 to continue its work.

Last week, we also marked an important milestone for Chestermere with the groundbreaking for the new K-9 school in Dawson. As our community continues to grow, this new school will help provide students with the space and learning environment they need to succeed.

As Alberta grows, our government is strengthening the foundations that enable our province to continue leading the way nationally. From creating new opportunities through defence investment to supporting responsible growth for communities and more dependable health care, we are making sure Alberta is ready for continued growth while enhancing the quality of life Albertans deserve.

As always, please free to reach out to my office with your feedback and questions

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

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Thought for the Week

~

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Investment dilemma

To the Editor
Our Prime Minister is giving billions of dollars to more foreign companies. Stephen Harper is helping him bring in these deals, so it feels like the old Harper plan all over again. Canadians voted against those policies because they helped foreign owners more than Canadian families. Now, we are seeing the same thing happen again. Beginning in 1978, Mulroney integrated our economy to the USA. Now Carney is integrating us to Europe. Some old, same old.

These deals are not free money. The government gives tax breaks, special loans, and big subsidies to foreign companies. This raises Canada's debt. When the debt goes up, future tax dollars must go toward paying interest instead of helping Canadians. The profits from these projects do not stay here. Most of the money goes back to investors in other countries. When foreign companies take most of the profits home, Canadians do not get richer. We benefit little from the exploitation of our natural resources.

Carney's plan may look good on paper because it creates big announcements and photo-ops. But it builds foreign wealth using Canadian debt. Over time, this means lower income for Canadians, fewer public services, and less money staying in our own economy. It is the same problem people rejected under Harper, and it risks hurting working families again.

Ken Riley,
Bassano



Spartans tested by Falcons

The Strathmore High School Spartans girls' soccer team faced a challenging matchup when they hosted the Foothills Composite Falcons on Oct. 8.

Joe Lepage Photos



Pressure restored after Westmount water main failures as town monitors repairs

MELISSA CRISPIN-PICHE
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Water pressure had returned to the affected Westmount area by late afternoon Oct. 7 after a series of leaks forced Strathmore to replace a section of aging water main, town council heard that evening.

Staff reported no visible leak at the time of the meeting, but cautioned that the repairs would need continued monitoring.

“We don’t see a leak at the moment,” Ethan Wilson manager of infrastructure told council. “We’ll monitor it over the next few days and weeks and just continue on from there.”

The update came after Coun. Melissa Langmaid asked administration how repairs were progressing and

whether affected residents could again use water for everyday tasks.

CAO Kevin Scoble said the affected section was part of the town’s older cast-iron pipe network. After an initial leak, depressurizing and repressurizing the line appeared to trigger further failures, resulting in five leaks in total.

The town replaced the section with PVC pipe. A sixth leak then developed at a valve, requiring more specialized work. EPCOR specialists from different parts of Alberta had been brought in to help.

An initial update to council described the valve repair as still requiring materials and a repair method.

It was reported that pressure had returned at about 5 p.m. and no leak was visible, while emphasizing that no guarantees could yet be made.

The failures could also affect next year’s infrastructure budget.

Administration said another area was already scheduled for pipe replacement, but council would have to consider whether to redirect that work to the area upstream of the Westmount repairs or fund both projects.

The town replaces some cast-iron piping each year through its capital budget; prioritizing areas based on factors such as how often leaks occur. They have also found, in other areas of town, very old pipes made of clay that will need to be addressed at a future date.

Langmaid thanked staff for responding to the unexpected failures and restoring water to affected homes.

The Oct. 7 update did not provide a repair cost or a final decision on next year’s replacement work.



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RCMP Major Crimes Unit investigates suspicious death in Siksika First Nation

ALBERTA RCMP

On Oct. 9, at 11:14 a.m., Gleichen RCMP responded to a report for a well-being check outside of a residence in Siksika First Nation. Upon arrival, a 17-year-old male was located deceased, and the circumstances surrounding his death appear to be suspicious.

RCMP Major Crimes Unit (MCU) was called in to investigate and has taken

carriage of the investigation. An autopsy was performed on Oct. 13 at the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner in Calgary.

RCMP believe the death is an isolated incident and there is no further risk to the general public. Alberta RCMP send our condolences to the loved ones of the deceased.

If you have any information on this incident, contact the Gleichen RCMP at 403-734-3923.



Shovels in the ground

A ground-breaking ceremony in Lyalta on Oct. 5 marked the start of a major recreation and greenspace expansion led by the Lyalta Community Club and Lakes of Muirfield Homeowners' Association. The \$1.25-million first phase will add 7.5 acres to the community centre grounds, featuring soccer fields, an all-season sports court, (ice rink in the winter and four pickleball courts in the warmer months), expanded parking and a support building with a heated skate room, storage and accessible washrooms. A proposed \$350,000 second phase in 2027–28 would add further improvements, including basketball and playground upgrades, a community fire pit, picnic areas and a connecting walkway.

Melissa Crispin-Piche Photo

Two arrested after break and enter

ALBERTA RCMP

On Sept. 24, the RCMP Southern Alberta District Crime Reduction Unit (SAD CRU) attended Siksika Nation to assist Gleichen RCMP with a break, enter and theft. Two trucks were stolen from a rural Vulcan County property during the night. A suspect was identified via security footage and was believed to be residing on Siksika Nation.

While conducting surveillance, SAD CRU identified the suspect driving a stolen 2012 GMC Sierra from the break and enter near Gleichen and tracked the vehicle to a Siksika property. Gleichen RCMP attended the property where two male suspects were arrested in possession of the stolen truck. There was also an additional stolen vehicle recovered on the property. The primary suspect was confirmed as the driver of

the stolen truck and was wearing the same clothing as in the break and enter.

Charlie Paul Wolfear (26), a resident of Siksika Nation, has been charged with break and enter, theft of a motor vehicle, two counts of possession of stolen property and failing to comply with probation order.

Wolfear was also wanted on warrants and charged with theft of a motor vehicle and failing to comply with probation from Sept. 8, in Langdon.

Donnie Lee Oldwoman (48), a Siksika Nation resident, has been charged with one count of possession of stolen property.

After a judicial interim release hearing, Wolfear and Oldwoman were initially remanded into custody. Oldwoman has since been released, and both have their next court date on Oct. 15 in Alberta Court of Justice in Gleichen.

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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.

October 13, 2026, 9:00 a.m. |Municipal Planning Commission
October 20, 2026, 9:00 a.m. | Organizational Meeting
October 20, 2026, 9:00 a.m. | Council Meeting

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

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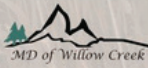
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Generous donation

The Wheatland and Area Hospice Society's Better Together Fund has donated to the Strathmore District Hospital Foundation to enhance palliative care equipment for patients at Strathmore Hospital. Representatives from both organizations gathered to recognize the contribution, which will help support compassionate care for patients and their families.

Photo Courtesy of Joyce Bazant



Back-to-back wins

The Wheatland Wranglers U18 female hockey team earned a 7-1 win over Cochrane at the Strathmore Family Centre on Oct. 9. The Wranglers continued their high-flying weekend with a 13-1 home win over Lethbridge the following day. The team's next game is slated for Oct. 17 against Okotoks.

Joe Lepage Photos

Koester reports legal fee reimbursement as committee payments remain unresolved

MELISSA CRISPIN-PICHE
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Wheatland County Coun. Glenn Koester says he has received an insurance reimbursement for legal costs from his dispute with the county, but payments he says he lost while off council committees remain unresolved.

At the Oct. 6 council meeting, Koester said the insurer had paid the legal-fee portion, while roughly \$5,200 in lost committee payments had yet to arrive.

The figures listed in his written report were \$93,706.39 in legal fees and \$5,210.99 in lost committee payments. Together those amounts total \$98,917.38, although Koester's comments made clear he had not received both portions.

Koester also put his additional lost committee income at nearly \$27,000. The amount discussed during the meeting was \$26,883.98.

He said he calculated that loss using the six-month committee-payment figure as a basis for a 36-month period. He suggested county staff could help check the calculation and asked that any council discussion about a further payment wait until all members were

present. Two councillors were absent with notice.

"I want to put this behind me. The legal part is done," Koester said.

The prospect of an additional payment drew questions about the difference between sanctions and council's annual decisions on committee appointments.

Earlier in the meeting, Koester clarified that he had been sanctioned for six months but had not been put back on a board for three years. He said there was unfinished work on boards he had served on and that he wanted to help see it through.

The question as to whether taxpayers should pay \$26,883.98 for committee positions Koester had not held; it was noted that other county representatives had been paid to do that work.

The chair also said committee appointments were made through the annual organizational process with a secret ballot when more than one person was nominated.

Council carried a motion accepting Koester's report as presented. The exchange did not establish the county's total legal costs, any insurance recovery by the county or the amount ultimately borne by taxpayers.

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Eagle Lake Nurseries owner/operator Anita Heuver (l-r), Shelby Sherwick and Rachel Hall are gearing up for fresh ideas and new connections at the ARPA conference, Oct 22-24 at the Fairmont Jasper Park Lodge.

Melissa Crispin-Piche Photo

Eagle Lake Nurseries grows community roots

MELISSA CRISPIN-PICHE

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

For more than five decades Eagle Lake Nurseries has helped shape the green spaces people enjoy close to home. From trees around Strathmore's storm ponds to plants supplied for local developments, the business's work reaches well beyond the nursery grounds.

Established in 1970 by Tony Heuver, Eagle Lake has grown into a supplier serving municipalities across Alberta. Its local roots remain an important part of that work, says Danielle Hall, who works in sales, marketing and industry relations for the nursery.

One contribution the team takes particular pride in is its annual support for Strathmore's Birth Forest. The nursery donates a portion of the plant material each year, helping the community project continue to grow.

Eagle Lake also works with the Town of Strathmore and Wheatland County. Hall said the nursery supplied all the trees for the new Edgefield storm pond, along with many of the plants going into developments in Lakewood.

Those projects give the nursery a role in how the community looks and how residents use its outdoor spaces. Its reach also includes work with Calgary, Edmonton and other Alberta towns and cities.

Now, Eagle Lake is preparing to connect with the people responsible for those public spaces at the trade show portion of the Alberta Recreation and Parks Association conference (ARPA), taking place Oct. 22-24 in Jasper.

For Hall, the event offers an opportunity to hear directly from parks staff and elected officials about their communities' planting needs. Those conversations help the nursery adjust its production plans and maintain relationships as municipal staff move into new roles.

Shelby, Eagle Lake's farm innovation and production manager, encouraged

the nursery to participate. Her background in municipal parks and recreation has helped identify the event as a place where growers could contribute to broader discussions about public spaces.

Hall said the purpose goes beyond making sales.

"We're far more interested in developing the conversations around why we're planting things, how we're planting things, and just continuing to make these spaces healthy," said Hall.

Choosing plants for those spaces requires an understanding of the conditions they will face. Southern Alberta, specifically Strathmore located in growing region Zone B3, presents its own challenges, including chinooks, extreme weather, late spring frost, early fall frost and a climate that differs from what growers encounter farther north.

Hall said she is encouraged by the growing attention being paid to green infrastructure and the importance of functional green spaces. The value of that work is easy to see in everyday community life.

"They (community residents) want to have nice trails to walk on. They want to have nice places to take their kids to go to parks and to get out and enjoy nature," she said.

As communities grow, the nursery hopes to help create outdoor spaces that remain healthy and useful for years to come.

That ambition reflects how much the business itself has changed. Following Tony Heuver's passing, his daughter Anita Heuver took over ownership and now serves as CEO.

Hall said some people may still picture Eagle Lake as the small, family-run nursery they remember from years ago. While that history remains part of its identity, its work and reach have expanded.

"We've grown a lot since I think a lot of people were familiar with us," she said. "And we've become quite the industry leader in a lot of these sectors."

Wheatland council advances long-term wastewater plan for Lakes of Muirfield

MELISSA CRISPIN-PICHE
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Wheatland County council has approved planning and engineering work toward a long-term regional wastewater solution for Lakes of Muirfield, while separate work continues to address drinking-water odour complaints.

The wastewater motion passed Oct. 6 after council returned from a closed session. It directs administration to pursue construction funding through the Alberta Municipal Water/Wastewater Partnership program and other eligible grant programs.

Council's direction is to "advance the planning and engineering required for a long-term regional wastewater solution," according to the motion read at the meeting.

The decision moves the project into further planning and a search for funding. The public discussion did not identify a construction budget, completion date or grant award.

The county's action tracker still listed an earlier wastewater-hauling agreement as ongoing. An August resolution had authorized administration to finalize an agreement to haul wastewater to Strathmore.

The Oct. 6 public discussion did not establish whether hauling had begun, what it would cost or how those costs would be paid.

Separately, county reports described reservoir aeration installation as underway and an investigation into elevated geosmin associated with water odour complaints.

Those drinking-water concerns are distinct from the wastewater project. The reports do not establish that the drinking water is unsafe, and the wastewater motion did not address the odour investigation.

For residents, the next steps include details on the regional wastewater proposal, its funding and construction schedule, as well as an update on aera-

tion work and water testing.

Council approved the wastewater motion without further questions during the public portion of the meeting.

MORE RECYCLABLES

Wheatland County's transfer stations were scheduled to expand recycling collection Oct. 1 to include plastic packaging, metal cans, glass and Styrofoam, according to the county's monthly report.

The change would allow residents to place packaging and paper products in mixed-recycling bins at county-operated transfer stations.

Rather than install an entirely new set of bins, the county planned to repurpose bins previously used for cardboard and newsprint.

The report lists plastics, metal cans, glass and Styrofoam among the materials included in the expanded collection. That list should not be read as permission to drop off every item made from those materials: the program is described as accepting packaging and paper products.

The report set Oct. 1 as the start date for the expanded collection.

Residents planning a drop-off should check their station's posted instructions or ask staff which materials belong in the mixed-recycling bins and how they should be prepared.

Station-by-station availability and detailed preparation requirements still need confirmation before residents make a trip.

WATER TALK

The Goldfinch raw-water pipeline is supplying CGC for commissioning, but work on the Speargrass Water Treatment Plant connection has temporarily stopped, according to Wheatland County's monthly infrastructure report.

The report describes progress on one part of the project alongside unfinished work on another. Administration says it is working with a bonding agency to complete outstanding work and address deficiencies at the Speargrass

connection.

Supplying water for commissioning marks a step forward for the Goldfinch line. It does not mean all related connection work is complete.

The reported pause concerns connection work. It does not establish that

Speargrass residents have lost water service.

The remaining questions are when the connection can be finished, what work and deficiencies are still outstanding, and whether completing them will change the project's cost.



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Strathmore forecasts user fee shortfall as recreation memberships decline

MELISSA CRISPIN-PICHE
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Strathmore is forecasting user-fee revenue \$560,000 below budget, with staff reporting lower facility membership sales even as drop-in admissions rise.

Coun. Jim Chisholm raised the forecast during council's Oct. 7 discussion of the town's second-quarter corporate report, asking whether the shortfall reflected timing, usage or changes in how residents were using town facilities.

"Our user fees are forecast to be 560K below budget," Chisholm said.

Administration reported reduced use at some facilities and said revenue assumptions were being lowered in the proposed budget. Staff suggested the economy and the cost of living could be influencing spending, but did not present that as a confirmed explanation.

The membership figures show a change in how residents are paying for recreation.

Staff's working explanation was that some individuals and families were avoiding a substantial upfront membership purchase and paying for occasional visits instead.

The forecast was based on the se-

cond-quarter report, covering the first half of the year. Staff said later quarters could improve the picture, with some activity also dependent on weather.

Coun. Melissa Langmaid asked whether the town still expected a year-end rise in membership purchases, noting that residents sometimes use workplace fitness or wellness spending accounts late in the year.

Administration said year-end purchases had historically been strong, including purchases made before fee increases took effect, but it was too early to know whether that pattern would continue.

Staff also said a more extensive cost-recovery analysis was planned, most likely next year, to inform the 2028 fees bylaw.

The user-fee shortfall does not represent the town's overall financial result. Chisholm also asked about a projected surplus, and administration said council would decide how to use any surplus once the year-end figures were finalized, usually in February or March.

Administration generally recommends putting surplus funds into reserves or debt reduction. No decision on allocating a surplus was made during the discussion.

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Legal Location	Number of Acres (approx)	Term of Leases
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PTN. NW 1-23-27-W4M	64	3 years - Crop
PTN. NW 1-23-27-W4M	78	3 years - Grazing
PTN. S 5-23-22-W4M	138	3 years - Crop

Tender documents and further information are available on the Western Irrigation Districts website wid.net or at the District office located at A-1000 Pine Street, Strathmore, Alberta 403-934-3542.
Sealed tenders clearly marked to identify the parcel for which the tender applies will be accepted at the WID office until **3:00 pm, Friday, October 30, 2026.**

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October 14, 2026 | 6 p.m.
October 21, 2026 | 6 p.m.

Committee of the Whole
Regular Meeting of Council

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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.

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We want to hear from residents about what matters most to them and how well we're meeting their expectations. That's why we conduct a **Citizen Satisfaction Survey**, giving residents an opportunity to share their experiences and provide feedback on Town services, programs and the community as a whole.

The survey is conducted by an independent research company, Framework Analytics Inc., using a random sample of Strathmore households. If you're selected, you'll receive an invitation with information about how to participate. If you are not selected, we still want to hear from you!

Have questions about the survey, how participants are selected or what happens with the results? Visit **Strathmore.ca/CitizenSatisfactionSurvey**.

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Boards and committees have always played an important role in our community. If you're looking for a way to make an impact, this is your chance to get involved. The Town is currently accepting applications for Family and Community Support Services Advisory Board - 1 position open.

Applications are now being accepted for the following roles:

- Assessment Review Board - 1 position
- Community Improvement Program Committee - 2 positions
- Family and Community Support Services Advisory Board - 3 positions
- Municipal Library Board - 3 positions
- Subdivision and Development Appeal Board - 5 positions

Appointments will be made by Council at the Organizational Meeting on October 28, 2026.

Interested individuals are encouraged to apply by October 19, 2026. Application details and forms are available on the Town website.

For more information, please visit: **http://www.strathmore.ca/boardsandcommittees** or email email **LSAdmin@strathmore.ca** or call **403-934-3133**.

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Mind the Gap.
How we plan sidewalks and pathways.

Ever been out for a walk and wondered why the sidewalk suddenly ends? Or biked your usual pathway and thought, "Was that curb ramp always there?"

As Strathmore grows, our streets, sidewalks, and pathways grow with it. When neighbourhood changes, whether through new homes, new businesses, or plans that simply need a refresh, we update the infrastructure around it. Some improvements happen quickly; others take shape over time.

Every project is based on things like safety, accessibility, and our long-term vision for the community, and planned as part of the Town's budget cycle. Maintaining and renewing streets, sidewalks, and pathways over their lifespan is a key part of our capital projects and how we manage Strathmore's assets.

Have a spot you think we should look at in the next few years? It might already be on our list, or might be something we haven't noticed yet.

Either way, we'd love to hear from you at: **Strathmore.ca/CCF**.

2026-2027.
Waste Collection Schedule

The new waste collection schedule for the 2026-2027 year is available.

Black Carts: Weekly pick-up year round.

Green Carts: Weekly pick-up May through October, biweekly November through April.

Blue Carts: Biweekly pick-up year round.

For more information about our waste collection schedules, routes, and important dates, visit: **Strathmore.ca/WasteSchedule**.

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Notice of Public Hearing.
October 21, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.

Land Use Bylaw Amending Bylaw No. 26-13 (126 Westdale Street)
Public Hearing Process

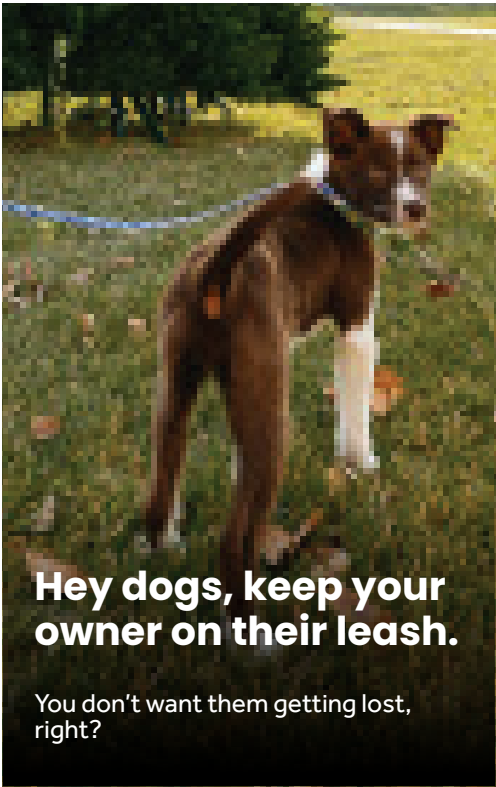
Please be advised that the Town of Strathmore has received an application for a land use redesignation for 126 Westdale Street (Lot 9, Block 3, Plan 0815612). The proposed re-designation from 'R1 - Single Detached Residential District' to 'R2 - Low Density Residential District' aims to permit the development of a semi-detached house.

The Public Hearing will be held via ZOOM and in Council Chambers, Strathmore Municipal Building, 1 Parklane Drive, Strathmore Alberta on **Wednesday, October 21, 2026**, commencing at **6:00 pm** with procedures in accordance with the Municipal Government Act, Section 199 and the Town of Strathmore Council Procedural Bylaw No. 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 Legislative Services at **LSAdmin@strathmore.ca** by **12:00 noon on Wednesday, October 14, 2026**, 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 **12:00 noon on Wednesday, October 14, 2026**, as outlined in Bylaw No. 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 five 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.



Hey dogs, keep your
owner on their leash.

You don't want them getting lost, right?