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VOLUME 16 ISSUE 40



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Teaching the youth

Requesting surplus monies to be returned

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Wheatland and Adjacent Districts Emergency Medical Services Association (WADEMESA) and representatives from Alberta Health Services (AHS) met at the Wheatland County administration office, Sept. 16, to discuss the requested return of surplus monies to AHS.

AHS had requested the return of over \$4 million in surplus monies which were indicated in previous correspondence between the two organizations to have been accumulated between 2013 and 2024.

One of the points raised by the WADEMESA board regarding their existing surplus, is that the \$4 million was a snapshot number taken concluded from a Q4 report, as opposed to being an accurate representation of their surplus which would have been documented in their audited financial statements.

As a counterpoint, it was stated during the Sept. 16 meeting that AHS approaches working with non-profit organizations, creating funding and budgeting models oriented to fund as close to exact amounts as necessary, without budgeting to create any degree of surplus.

The agreements are intended to be funded based on costs at the onsets of any relationship between AHS and a non-profit, and funding is then increased annually based on factors such as inflation and cost of living adjustments.

WADEMESA offered their suggestion to benefit from having created a funding surplus in order for the organization to maintain reserve funding in case of being required to purchase more ambulances.

AHS is aiming to reclaim money that falls outside the bounds of the previously established relationship and purpose of the funding model created between them and WADEMESA in order to direct those monies towards other projects and priorities throughout the province.

Continued on Page 4

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Hawks host



Night market

Many people, and a few four-legged friends, made their way to downtown Strathmore for the annual Third Avenue After Dark on Sept. 28. It was an evening of great shopping, delicious food and some wonderful music. The event was pushed earlier in the season to incorporate some better weather rather than some of the upcoming cooler temperatures. See more coverage on Page 10.

Joe Lepage Photo

STRATHMORE TIMES

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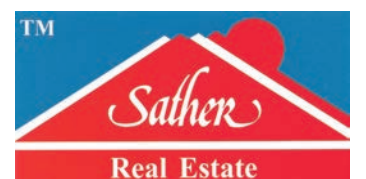
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Rockyford develops new housing for population increase

FERNANDO MORENO-PRADO
Times Contributors

Running for hope

Sacred Heart Academy and Holy Cross Collegiate each held their Terry Fox Run on Sept. 26-27 respectively. SHA teacher Mrs. Volk shaved her head in support, while the school raised over \$6,100.

Joe Lepage Photos

The over-century old village of Rockyford has benefitted from a population growth of 10 per cent – despite dealing with the hurdles of infrastructure deficit and insufficient provincial funding.

Mayor Darcy Burke feels that there is an increasing gap between the funding available to the cost of upgrading aging infrastructure and the funding required to make those necessary upgrades. Nevertheless, population growth has benefitted the village.

Burke explains that growth has resulted in benefits to businesses, non-profits groups, and the community in general. In order to sustain these benefits, Burke stresses the necessity for housing developments.

“To carry that type of population growth forward, we need to have available space for folks to build new homes on,” he said.

The south side of Prairie Ridge Park is to be developed for such purposes. The village council negotiated a deal with the Golden Hills School Division to acquire the property. The developments began this past summer.

As an elected official, Burke says that the council strives to find a balance for better infrastructure while still providing affordable small-town living “for the folks that call it home.”

Burke explains that the challenges to sustain the community and its expansion are overcome by considering thoughts of local residents and a “really positive and upfront discussion” by the village council. This is done through goal setting and reinvestment of taxpayer money in the infrastructure of the community.

“We balance out the views and budgets and make sure we do the best possible to serve our community,” he said.

Rockyford has a variety of upcoming events to look forward to in the autumn season as an agriculture-based community.

“We see lots of functions happening in our community centre,” said Burke. Functions include Maritime Madness hosted by the Lions Club that includes a steak and lobster meal with the purchase of a ticket. There will be a Halloween party in the hall with a haunted house and a variety of winter activities.

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Town in support of Overnight Shelter opening 24 hours a day

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Town of Strathmore council voted to authorize the mayor to sign a letter of support for the Strathmore Overnight Shelter to remain open to clients 24 hours a day.

Discussion surrounding the letter took place during the Sept. 18 regular meeting of council. Coun. Brent Wiley voiced a concern about the letter, regarding the Overnight Shelter potentially expanding the number of beds available to clients.

Wiley expressed concern that by expanding the number of beds at the Overnight Shelter, the facility would be serving clients not resident to Strathmore.

“If we continue to expand this, I am afraid that it is going to cost our citizens more than I think the 20 beds which do serve Strathmore residents,” he said.

The letter, which was ultimately authorized by council, though supportive of the expansion of the shelter, did not specify how many beds may be added to the facility.

Elizabeth Karp, executive director of the Strathmore Overnight Shelter, addressed Wiley’s concern, stating the Overnight Shelter puts a direct emphasis on screening clients to be residents of Strathmore as often as possible.

“I quite often do get calls from Calgary, Edmon-

ton, and other areas because the shelters are full there. We are not in the business of bringing homeless populations into Strathmore ... when the social workers or other people call us from other cities, we actually turn them down,” she said. “We typically do not let them into the shelter, we turn them away before they even get there – but there are situations where the RCMP picked somebody up on the street, the hospital is releasing somebody, and so we do take them in in those situations.”

Karp added the Overnight Shelter requested support in expanding their operation in order to qualify for additional grant opportunities to finance the shelter more adequately.

“It does not necessarily mean we are going to bring a bunch more people into Strathmore,” said Karp. “As a matter of fact, in the last quarter, we have had a huge success rate of placing people in homes.”

The Strathmore Overnight Shelter also maintains a policy that clients utilizing the service have a maximum stay length of three months.

Karp explained that period may be extended on a case-by-case basis if the client is working towards a housing goal or is similarly oriented.

Coun. Richard Wegener motioned for council to authorize signing the letter. Support for the letter to the Overnight Shelter from council was passed in a vote of 5-1 in favour following the discussion period.



A fair deal

A Fall Fair Market was hosted at the Strathmore Legion Branch No. 10, Sept. 29. A variety of vendors came out to occupy the hall and sell their wares from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m.

John Watson Photo

WHMB has successful operational review

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Glenn Koester, chairperson of the Wheatland Housing Management Body (WHMB), expanded on the Sept. 20 announcement of the organization’s successful operational review.

A release had been distributed noting the routine operational review which had been conducted, the purpose of which, being to give the WHMB an opportunity to review and discuss its operations and overall management.

“The Ministry of Seniors, they have been doing these reviews before – I think our last one was 2016 and COVID-19 came, and they had not done any since COVID-19 started,” said Koester. “They are way behind, but it is a routine ... to make sure that everybody is not having troubles (and) are doing the right thing and practicing best management. They are there to help us do a better job.”

Koester added a team of advisors spent roughly a week reviewing the WHMB’s policies, minutes and financial statements, as well as visiting with local seniors and staff.

Overall, Koester explained that approximately a dozen policies were required to see mild adjustment, as some were left over from during the COVID-19 pandemic, and are no longer applicable or necessary.

“This was our second one. The county writes a letter to the minister and we do a review, and

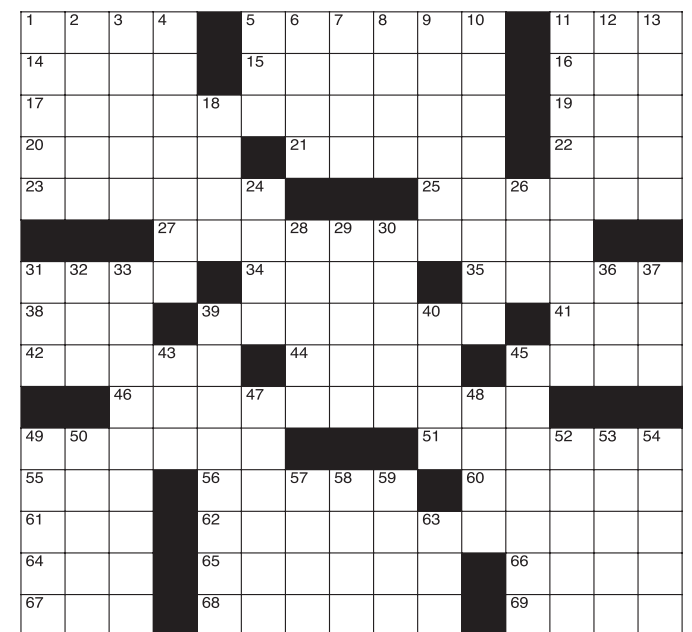
the county did that twice. We got the review done from the minister and he didn’t find any troubles at all. The whole board is happy, the staff are happy, residents are happy,” said Koester. “We know we are on the right track. Every day is a different day and different problems come up, but we do not have to look back so much. We can be prepared to grow and find better solutions for tomorrow.”

According to Koester, the WHMB has already met to discuss and pass all the amendments which were documented and pointed out as requiring attention by the Ministry of Seniors.

Going forward, the WHMB continues to await confirmation of a successful application to the province for funding to support the proposed new Wheatland Lodge project aiming to be constructed in Strathmore.

“That ball is in the province’s court right now and we are waiting for an answer from them. Whatever the answer is, we can settle down and do what is best for our residents,” said Koester. “If we are going to build, we will get our team back together, and if not, we will just keep working on keeping our residents happy.”

The WHMB application for funding was previously unsuccessful during the province’s previous funding period, and now the team is awaiting any announcement as to whether any more funding will be made available.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Separate with an instrument
- 5. State clearly
- 11. One-time MLB speedster Gordon
- 14. Broad in scope
- 15. Lacking social polish
- 16. Amount of time
- 17. Frame
- 19. Automobile
- 20. Caps
- 21. High school dances
- 22. Utilize
- 23. Checked
- 25. One-sided
- 27. Having an extreme greed for wealth
- 31. Potted plants
- 34. We all have one
- 35. Lake north of the Kalahari
- 38. Unidentified flying object
- 39. Aging persons
- 41. Small amount
- 42. Mother of Perseus
- 44. Ornamental waist box
- 45. Officials
- 46. Uncertain
- 49. A cotton fabric with a satiny finish
- 51. Extensive, treeless plains
- 55. Your consciousness of your own identity
- 56. Consumer advocate Ralph
- 60. Notable Spanish sports club
- 61. Body part
- 62. One’s responsiveness
- 64. Woman (French)
- 65. Ready and willing to be taught
- 66. Muslim ruler title
- 67. Unhappy
- 68. Gradually disappeared
- 69. Able to think clearly

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Brushed
- 2. Water sprite
- 3. Ones to look up to
- 4. Monetary units
- 5. We all have one
- 6. Marine invertebrate
- 7. One who institutes a legal proceeding
- 8. Outer
- 9. Parallelograms
- 10. Uncomfortable feelings
- 11. Cross to form an X
- 12. Remove
- 13. Some pages are dog-__
- 18. Capital of Ukraine
- 24. A citizen of Denmark
- 26. Eighth month (abbr.)
- 28. Hindu queens
- 29. Acids structurally related to amino acids
- 30. Rider of Rohan in Tolkien
- 31. Wet dirt
- 32. Russian city
- 33. Observed
- 36. Irate
- 37. Travelers need them
- 39. Musical composition
- 40. Auction
- 43. Form of “to be”
- 45. Women
- 47. Inspire with love
- 48. Think Japanese ankle sock
- 49. Appears
- 50. Old World lizard
- 52. The lead dancer: __ ballerina
- 53. Protein involved in motion
- 54. Rosalind Franklin biographer
- 57. Popular 1920s style art __
- 58. __ Blyton, children’s author
- 59. Abnormal breathing
- 63. A place to rest

STRATHMORE TIMES

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The People's Choice Awards were presented at The Vault on Sept. 28 during Alberta Culture Days. The afternoon was also an opportunity for people to celebrate the various forms of art that are on display at The Vault. Aliyah Desrosiers (l-r), Luba Piche, Sadie Goodfellow and Kavannah Blue each claimed an award.

Melissa Piche Photo

Lions give back

The Cluny Lions Charity PBR, which was held on June 28 by Wilson Rodeo, raised over \$16,000 for the Strathmore District Health Services Foundation. Slim Wilson (l-r) presented the cheque to Lucie Fiedler, Jo Wilson, Elizabeth Struiksma, Mary Risseuw, Corine Drydale, Mardelle Bazant and Jarrett Fawdry (manager) on Sept. 23. Their second event, which was held later this past summer, was able to raise \$1,600 for the Alberta Children's Hospital Foundation.



Photo Courtesy of Slim Wilson

Siksika Health Services officially unveil local Our Healthbox

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Siksika Health Services unveiled the new Our Siksika Healthbox situated at the Siksika Health and Wellness Centre, Sept. 26, as part of an initiative to improve access to wellness supplies.

The Healthbox is effectively a vending machine, accessible anonymously, is free of charge, and is stocked with materials such as food, personal hygiene products, health promotion items, naloxone kits, and sexual health items.

"The Healthbox has been in operation for about a month, but the press conference (Sept. 26) ... officially launched the first Healthbox in Alberta," said Rachael Edwards, a registered nurse with Siksika Health Services, and the project coordinator for the Healthbox.

"Some people struggle to access food or personal hygiene products, so some of those items are in there – and then other things like health promotion items, recognizing that there is a segment of the population that uses substances, and we want to make sure that they have access and sometimes coming in and asking for the things that they need is not possible."

Edwards explained Siksika Health Services conducted community engagement over the last year regarding the initiative to gauge what kinds of products would prove helpful and effective for the community to have access to.

As a tool for public health promotion, part of the aim of the Healthbox is to reduce instances of HIV, hepatitis C, syphilis, and fatalities caused by drug overdoses.

"Seasonally, we will have things like hats and gloves for folks who are maybe unhoused and require those sorts of things to stay warm while they are outside, (and) things like

socks in the rainy months," she said. "One thing we heard loud and clear was that people who use substances, they need access to health services just like the rest of us, but sometimes are not ready to engage, so we provide a compassionate and dignified way for people to get the resources they need."

Within those resources, she added, contact information for Siksika Health Services is provided so that if people have any questions, they are able to reach out at any time.

The Healthbox is an initiative which is taking place across Canada. The box in Siksika is thus far the box that is the most westward in the country.

Similar boxes have been set up in Winnipeg, several across Ontario, and across the maritime provinces.

"It is our way to show people who may be reluctant to access services for particular reasons that we love and care about them too and that we value their health," she said. "That is the message that we want to get across and that we have been working really hard on for the last year."

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YOUR WEEKLY HEALTH ADVICE
Gord Morck Pharmacist

Capsule Comments

Jonathan Swift said over two hundred years ago that everyone wants to live forever but no one wants to grow old. Indeed, growing older often leaves people with fewer functional years. People in their 80s still want to be able to walk a mile or stand up for a while without getting tired. But the truth is that many people spend their last couple years almost disabled by disease. The secret? Take care of your body now so your old age can be active and fully functional.

Osteoporosis is characterized by weakened bones that are more prone to fracture. To help delay the onset of this disease ensure you get enough calcium and vitamin D. Engage in weight-bearing exercises like walking, jogging, dancing and strength training with weights. Also avoid smoking and limit alcohol consumption.

In 2020 female breast cancer surpassed lung cancer as the most commonly diagnosed cancer and continues to do so. There are 29,000 new cases of breast cancer each year in Canada and almost 2.3 million worldwide. It's important to check yourself for new bumps and lumps but also ensure you have a regular mammogram.

Interestingly, the original mammogram study was done by a German surgeon, Albert Salomon, in 1913. However, widespread clinical use of mammography as a screening technique didn't occur until after a 1966 study led by American radiologist and mammography pioneer, Philip Strax.

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Strathmore High School hosts first annual local Envirothon

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Strathmore High School hosted an environmental science competition, Sept. 26, for Grade 6 students in the local region as an opportunity to explore a variety of disciplines in field work.

Called an Envirothon, over 250 students participated in the event which took place both at Strathmore High School and the Legacy Farm. Stations were set up at both locations focussing on topics spread across agriculture and forestry industries.

“Students (had) the opportunity to go to different field stations and learn shoulder to shoulder with our Envirothon students, as well as environmental science professionals who actually work in the field,” said Cole Hintz, a teacher at Strathmore High School who oversaw the event. “This is the first year that we are actually offering it. We attend the Alberta Envirothon every year – it is an award-winning program and competition. The last couple of years it has taken place up in Vermilion, but we have been able to take a couple of teams of students each year.”

The goal, added Hintz, is for Strathmore High School’s Envirothon to become an annual staple and learning opportunity.

He explained ideas for the local event began to be brainstormed on the return trip from last year’s provincial competition.

“I think it is really powerful for students being able to work shoulder to shoulder with professionals in the actual industry,” said Hintz. “Alberta Lake Management Society came and they do a really great job of talking about watersheds and the importance of riparian areas for our water. We are working with Foothills Forage Association; they came and talked to students about different grazing practices and had students build paddocks for cattle.”

The Town of Strathmore also got involved, with the local arborist having come out to talk to students about urban forestry.

Strathmore High School students were working in tandem alongside the guest industry professionals to run the various stations and teach the participating Grade 6 students.

“It was a great opportunity for students to connect and teach with other students from younger grades, and then from the younger side, it was a really good chance to connect the curriculum to what they are doing at the end of it,” said Hintz. “At the end of the competition back at their schools, they got a scenario that they had to solve together – it was a real-world problem and they had to come up with a plan for their development, keeping in mind some of the things they picked up in the field stations during that day.”

Hintz added Nutrien and Capital Power stepped up to assist the event, allowing Strathmore High School to be able to host it for free for all the attending schools.



Strathmore High School hosted an Envirothon for Grade 6 students on Sept. 26.

Joe Lepage Photos



Upcoming Meetings

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

- For public hearings it is strongly encouraged that you attend in person.
- October 2: Agricultural Service Board Meeting**
- October 8: Municipal Planning Commission**
- October 15: Organizational Meeting**

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Kings open new season with win streak

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Agra Risk Wheatland Kings opened the new Heritage Junior Hockey League with a three-game winning streak.

The Kings most recent win was an 11-0 drubbing of the Ponoka Stampeders on the road on Sept. 28, after starting their season with a pair of wins on the opening weekend.

The local Junior-B team opened the season with a road win versus the Mountainview Colts and a home win over the High River Flyers Sept. 20-21.

Taking on the Colts on their home ice in Didsbury, the Kings secured a 2-0 win, locking the Colts out of the net, and scoring a goal in each of the second and third periods.

During their debut on home ice, the Kings lost a pair of goals in the first period, followed by a third goal in the second. This was made up in the third period as they tied the game and forced the Flyers into overtime. The Kings closed it out with a final score of 4-3.

“We are happy we got the two wins – we did not play amazing; it is the beginning of the year so we are still working on a bunch of stuff, but the boys competed hard, especially on the (home) game,” said Doug Raycroft, head coach for the Kings. “It took a big effort from the guys to come back and it was exciting – it is always nice to get a comeback win in the beginning of the year so you start to believe in yourselves as a team.”

Raycroft added the Kings have yet to see their full roster of players available to them, due to their captain, Joel Romano, as well as Tegan Skehar and Adam Moore serving suspensions.

Romano earned a three-game suspension from a play during an exhibition game against Okotoks. He is allowed to return to the ice following the Sept. 28 game against the Ponoka Stampeders.

Additionally, Phillip Raycroft made his season debut versus Ponoka.

“We are going to get stronger as we keep going here. It is nice to have a good start, get the kinks out, get a couple of wins and move forward,” said coach Raycroft. “For us, it is a process ... we want to get better all the time. There were lots of things we could have done better on (opening) weekend, so as we go into practices ... we want to make sure that we are moving the puck really well and we are working on some of our systems so that when we go into (future games) we are not as rusty as we were (the) first weekend.”

Cody Holdaway, general manager for the Agra Risk Wheatland Kings, explained this marks the first time the Kings have won back-to-back on their opening weekend since 2014, as well as the first home opener win since 2021.

“Doug is a very decorated coach, Doug is a national champion coach, and I think Doug’s coaching style has remained tried and true through his years,” added Holdaway. “This is only Doug’s second full season with the Kings, so he is still getting settled in and learning the way we run as an organization, but I think as he gets fully settled in here this year, I think there might be some changes that might help out the team for sure.”

The Kings will now host a pair of home games Oct. 4-5 when they square off against the Red Deer Vipers and the Cochrane Generals, respectively. Game time for both contests is 8 p.m.



NEXT HOME GAMES

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Home sweet home

The Holy Cross Collegiate senior girls volleyball team hosted their home tournament Sept. 27-28 at the school.
Joe Lepage Photos



Spartans in action

The Strathmore High School girls soccer team hosted Okotoks' Holy Trinity on Sept. 24 at the school's field. Unfortunately, the Spartans were shutout en route to a loss.
Joe Lepage Photos



Spartans battle Cobras

The Strathmore Spartans high school football team hosted the Willowcreek Cobras from Claresholm on Sept. 27. The Spartans fell 29-13.
Joe Lepage Photos

JOHN WATSON
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Wheatland County council passed a revision to the Agriculture Service Board (ASB) Bylaw during the Sept. 17 regular meeting of council.

As per the ASB bylaw, county council members who serve on the ASB are occasionally required to attend agricultural-related conferences, conventions or events that are beyond those which are pre-approved under the County's Elected Official Remuneration Policy.

As a result of this, attendance at such events by ASB members must first be approved by council.

The purpose of the amendment to the bylaw is to more definitely delegate the authority to approve attendance at additional events, including associated remuneration for councillor board members to the ASB.

Prior to the amendment of the bylaw, council was required to pass resolutions to approve the attendance of councillor ASB members at additional ASB related functions and events not explicitly outlined in the County's Elected Official Remuneration Policy.

ted Official Remuneration Policy.

"I think it is a great idea; we do have a budget that we have to operate within, so I think if we look at the ASB goals to be responsive to current issues and trends in agriculture and increase awareness of environmental practices, we can only really do that by going to different events that are offered," said Coun. Shannon Laprise. "For example, the AgSmart conference that a few of us went to – so there are other events like that, that could be useful to the ASB."

Upon the passing of Bylaw 2024-28, being the amendment to the ASB bylaw, the previous iteration, being 2024-19 was required to be rescinded by council.

The full ASB bylaw is available for public viewing through the Wheatland County website and Sept. 17 council meeting agenda.

Second and third readings of the bylaw were both passed unanimously by council without further discussion or objection.

Bylaw 2024-28 was put into effect immediately upon its signing as a result of the regular council meeting.

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For the Pleasure of Seeing Her Again brings laughter

LAUREEN F. GUENTHER
Times Contributor

For the Pleasure of Seeing Her Again, a play by Michel Tremblay, opened at Rosebud Theatre on Sept. 13. The play is Tremblay's memoir of his mother, whom he credits with inspiring and challenging him to be the person he became. This production was directed by Rosebud Theatre's Artistic Director, Morris Ertman.

Tremblay and his mother are played by real-life mother and son, Karen Johnson-Diamond and Griffin Cork. Johnson-Diamond performs the larger-than-life mother with colour and hilarity. She's the loud, vibrant, admirable mother each of us knows, even if we didn't have the privilege of growing up with her. Cork plays Tremblay's role with heart and artistic precision, conveying his affection and laughter marvellously, with and without words.

They perform the maturing mother-and-son relationship from Tremblay at 10 years old to young adulthood, of a mother creatively scolding her mischievous little boy to sharing her deepest longings with a son who is beginning to achieve some of his own.

Mrs. Tremblay wins our hearts with her love for her son, her exaggerated fears of where his boyish pranks will lead, and her hope for him to become someone greater, something meaningful.

Cork and Johnson-Diamond's performance reminds us of the impact of our own mothers,



Karen Johnson-Diamond and Griffin Cork perform the roles of mother and son in Rosebud Theatre's production of *For the Pleasure of Seeing Her Again*, playing until Oct. 26.

Photo Courtesy of Rosebud Theatre

though our own moms might have made their mark in less vivid colour. In this time of societal change and political instability, we need this warm and hilarious reminder that a mother's impact is deep, lasting and timeless.

For the Pleasure of Seeing Her Again plays in matinee and evening shows until Oct. 26 on Rosebud Theatre's Opera House stage. Theatre tickets include a buffet meal, but may also be purchased without. For evening shows until Oct. 12, Rosebud Theatre is currently offering four tickets for the price of three. For more information or to get tickets, you can call 1-800-267-7553 or visit their website (rosebudtheatre.com).



Celebrate Alberta

Alberta Culture Day was celebrated in Strathmore, Sept. 28, with a host of local vendors participating in the activities. Additionally, musical and dance presentations were held at the Kinsmen Park pavilion. The event welcomed families and residents of all ages.

John Watson Photos



The Strathmore Spartans senior girls volleyball team claimed a gold medal in Drumheller on Sept. 21.

Photo Courtesy of Jerry Flaws

Spartan success

MEGHAN FLAWS
Times Jr Contributor

The Strathmore High School senior girls volleyball team continued their hot start to the new season.

The Lady Spartans went undefeated at the DVSS tournament in Drumheller, winning gold in a third set against Strathcona Tweedsmuir during the Sept. 20-21 tourney.

The girls faced some tough opponents, but nothing rattled them, and they ended the weekend with a record of 6-0.

Many of the underclassmen got to show off their skill and grit with two Grade 10s leading the stats with the most assists. After losing the final the previous weekend in Camrose, the girls were going to stop at nothing to take home gold.

After winning the first set

of the final 25-10, they had the momentum going into the second set, but unfortunately lost the second set 25-20.

Though they had just lost the second set, the Strathmore girls did not look defeated – instead they used that loss to push through into the third set.

The Spartans worked their hardest and left it all out all on the court, leading them to win the third set 15-10 and ultimately winning the tournament.

This win meant more than they let on, especially to the Grade 12s on this team, many of whom have played on the senior team since Grade 10.

With gold and silver medals in their first two tournaments, the Spartans are looking forward to seeing what the girls can accomplish in the remainder of the season.

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STRATHMORE AG GROUNDS

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Market fun

Businesses on third avenue in downtown Strathmore hosted their annual Third Avenue After Dark on Sept. 28. It was a family-friendly event that allowed folks to treat themselves or get a jump on some early Christmas shopping.

Joe Lepage Photos

Changes in perception on immigration in Canada

MARTIN SHIELDS
Member of Parliament Bow River Riding

Immigration has become an important topic in Canada.

It is becoming increasingly clear that when the Liberal government announced an increase to Canada's permanent number of annual immigrants, and when Justin Trudeau's former immigration Minister Sean Fraser allowed temporary visas to get out of control, something changed.

After nine years, Justin Trudeau and his Liberal government have broken our immigration system.

At the root of the problem is supply and demand. When there are too many people and not enough houses, prices go up. Too many people competing for healthcare, wait times go up. You get

the point.

We are now at a point in time in Canada that at the end of 2023, there were 1,040,985 international students in Canada at all levels of study.

That number represented a 63 per cent growth over the previous five years and more than 200 per cent growth over the last decade.

According to a July Globe & Mail article: "The number of temporary residents in Canada swelled to 2.8 million in the first quarter (of 2024), underscoring the challenge facing a federal government that is looking to restrict migration to the country. Temporary residents – a group that includes international students, people here on work permits and asylum claimants – now comprise 6.8 per cent of the total population, up from 3.5 per cent two years ago."

After much public scrutiny, the Liberals backtracked by announcing a decrease in the number of new international student permits issued to approximately 360,000 for 2024, and limiting temporary foreign workers with the following measures:

In response to the current employment environment, the following changes were implemented, effective by Sept. 26:

- The Government of Canada will refuse to process Labour Market Impact Assessments (LMIA) in the Low-Wage stream, applicable in census metropolitan areas with an unemployment rate of 6 per cent or higher. Exceptions will be granted for seasonal and non-seasonal jobs in food security sectors (primary agriculture, food processing and fish processing), as well as construction and healthcare.
- Employers will be allowed to hire no more than 10 per cent of their total

workforce through the TFW Program. This maximum employment percentage will be applied to the Low-Wage stream and is a further reduction from the March 2024 reduction. Exceptions will be granted for seasonal and non-seasonal jobs in food security sectors (primary agriculture, food processing and fish processing), as well as healthcare and construction.

- The maximum duration of employment for workers hired through the low-wage stream will be reduced to one year (from two years).

Do you think these measures will be enough to address the issues we face in Canada? Do you think more needs to be done?

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

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STRATHMORE TIMES

Rights and freedoms

CHANTELLE DE JONGE
Chestermere-Strathmore MLA

Since its inception in 1972, the Alberta Bill of Rights has safeguarded the individual rights and freedoms at the core of our province's proud identity. It is a document that has withstood the test of time, enshrining the fundamental principles every Albertan holds dear – freedom of speech, religion, and equality before the law.

Over 50 years later, we can all feel the changes that have swept across the world and nearly every aspect of our lives. The challenges confronting Albertans have evolved, and so too must our laws in order to ensure the rights and freedoms that make our province a beacon of hope remain properly protected for future generations.

In a few short weeks, our government will introduce legislation to strengthen the Alberta Bill of Rights and bring forward three key amendments respecting individual freedom and personal responsibility.

We will reinforce the rights of Albertans to make their own choices regarding the medical procedures they receive. This includes ensuring that every individual who has the capacity to do so will have the right to decide whether or not to receive a vaccination or undergo other medical procedures. Under the amended Alberta Bill of Rights, those who choose not to receive a vaccine will not have their civil liberties limited, suspended, or otherwise impeded by undue pressure or interference by government.

Our government will also strengthen the property rights of Albertans, a cornerstone of living in any free, democratic society. The reaffirmation of Albertans' right to own and enjoy the property they work so hard to earn

ensures that government can never deprive any Albertan of their personal property without due process of law and just compensation.

Finally, we will make an amendment to explicitly clarify that, in Alberta, we respect the right of individuals to legally acquire, keep, and safely use firearms. For too long, law-abiding farmers, ranchers, and hunters have fallen victim to our federal government's overreaching, idealistic policy agendas.

These amendments will strengthen Alberta's Bill of Rights and provide a legal foundation through which key rights and liberties are protected in an unpredictable and rapidly changing political climate. Our government recognizes the crucial importance of individual freedoms and personal responsibility. We believe that our amendments will strengthen these principles for all Albertans.

In other news, Alberta's government is making sure communities have a say in how they are policed by the RCMP. The creation of the municipal and regional policing committees and the Provincial Police Advisory Board will ensure large and small municipalities have a role in setting province-wide policing priorities and performance goals for the RCMP to ensure service delivery reflects and addresses local needs. The changes coming into force through the amendments and new regulations represent a collaborative effort on the part of municipalities, the RCMP and Alberta's government to improve public safety in communities throughout the province.

As always, please feel free to email (Chestermere.Strathmore@assembly.ab.ca) 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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COMING EVENT

Thank You

The Strathmore United Church Women thank the many donors, purchasers and especially volunteers who contributed to another successful Thrift Sale.

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Upcoming Council Meetings

October 2, 2024 | 6 p.m. Regular Meeting of Council
October 9, 2024 | 6 p.m. Committee of the Whole
October 16, 2024 | 6 p.m. Regular Meeting of Council

Come Say Hi

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

October 23, 2024 | 6 p.m.

Community Delegation Night

Every year, Town Council dedicates an annual meeting to hear from community organizations seeking funding support. If you are part of an organization who provides a community service in Strathmore, this is your chance to apply for funding.

At the Community Delegation Night on October 23, Council will review community group funding requests to help ensure the success of local service clubs, non-profits and sports organizations. Considering all requests at once allows Council to budget accurately while preventing unexpected mid-year requests that could cause strain on the planned budget.

Your organization is invited to participate!

- Determine what funds your organization requires and how they will be used to help deliver programs, services or supports in Strathmore.
- Complete the Application for Funding Form by October 13, 2024.
- Gather additional accompanying documents. These can be letters of support, statistics or community impact reports.
- Complete the online Delegation Form.
- Send your Application for Funding Form and accompanying documents to LSAdmin@Strathmore.ca by October 13, 2024.

Learn more at Strathmore.ca/DelegationNight

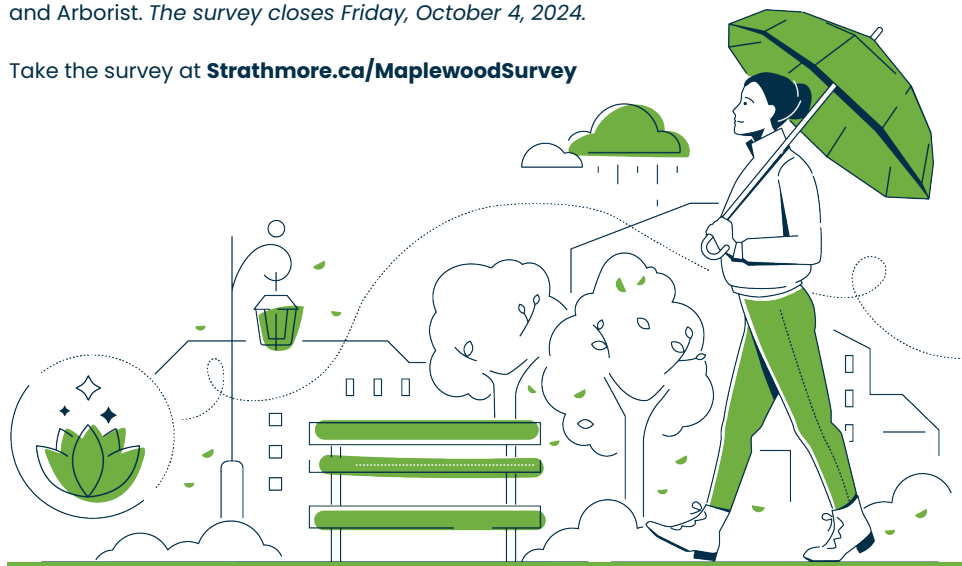


Maplewood Utility Project Landscape Design Survey

In May, we bid a fond farewell to the aging trees alongside Maplewood Drive in preparation for important infrastructure work scheduled for 2025. This work involves connecting new watermains along Centennial Drive and upgrading the existing watermain on Maplewood Drive as part of the Town's Master Water Servicing Study. The improvements aim to increase waterline capacity, maintain service levels, and provide sufficient fire flow.

The landscaping along Maplewood Drive will soon be refreshed and we want your input on what that might look like. With the boulevard expansion and more space for pedestrians, we've got plenty of options to explore. The survey is just seven questions and the final design will be shaped by your feedback along with input from the Town's Horticulturalist and Arborist. *The survey closes Friday, October 4, 2024.*

Take the survey at Strathmore.ca/MaplewoodSurvey



From weekly to biweekly. Green Cart Seasonal Collection Schedule.

On November 1, green cart collection is reduced to bi-weekly until April 30. This collection change is due to a lower need from less yard waste, as you likely won't be raking your lawn or pulling weeds in the middle of winter. Be sure to complete your fall yard maintenance by Halloween!



Buckle up, it's budget time!

Budget Meetings Timeline

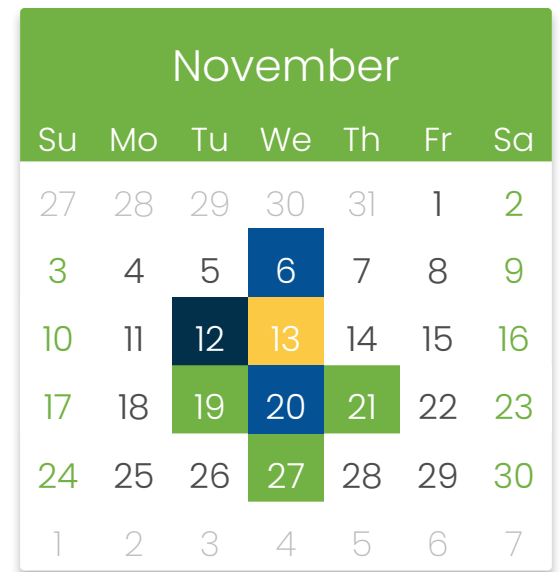
The Town of Strathmore's budget covers all the essential services that our residents use each and every day. Whether you're diving into the Aquatic Centre, borrowing a book from the Strathmore Municipal Library, having your garbage or compost picked up, drinking clean water from the tap, riding the handibus on a road, or having emergency services rush to your aid – you're using a Town of Strathmore service. Why not get involved in the organization of 2025's budget?

Budget meetings take place in November and are open to anyone who would like to attend. You don't need to call ahead or register to observe Strathmore Council in action. If in person's not your thing, you can also watch livestreamed meetings online as they happen, or catch up later on Youtube. The dates below are set unless otherwise amended by Council Resolution.

Time: 6 p.m.

Location: Council Chambers at the Strathmore Municipal Building (1 Parklane Dr., Strathmore, AB T

- Regular Council Meeting
- Committee of the Whole Meeting
- Annual Organizational Meeting
- Budget Meeting
- Coffee with Council



Intermunicipal Development Plan Upcoming Public Hearing

- Purpose:** to develop an Intermunicipal Development Plan (IDP) alongside Wheatland County.

Bylaw #24-15

The Town of Strathmore and Wheatland County are working collaboratively to develop an Intermunicipal Development Plan. The IDP will guide future growth and development in the area and address land use planning issues and opportunities.

Public Hearing Process

A copy of the proposed bylaw can be found on the Town's website at Strathmore.ca/PublicHearing or may be inspected by the public during regular office hours, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday at the Strathmore Municipal Building (1 Parklane Drive, Strathmore, AB). Please contact the Town Office if you would like an opportunity to review and provide input on the proposed amendments prior to the Public Hearing.

The Public Hearing will be held via ZOOM AND in Council Chambers at the Strathmore Municipal Building on **October 2, 2024**, commencing at **6 p.m.** with procedures in accordance with the *Municipal Government Act, Section 199* and the Town of Strathmore *Council Procedural Bylaw #23-17* and amendments thereto. Any person or group of persons, or person acting on someone's behalf, who claims to be affected by any or all of the proposed bylaw, may present their concerns and/or suggestions by making a submission at the public hearing. Please contact Legislative Services by email at lsadmin@strathmore.ca no later than **noon on Wednesday, September 24, 2024**, in order to register to speak at the public hearing.

Written submissions to the Public Hearing or the name of any person wishing to make an oral presentation at the Public Hearing must be received by the Planning and Development Department prior to **noon on Wednesday, September 24, 2024** as outlined in *Bylaw #23-17* and amendments thereto. If your written submission is not received by this time, please provide fifteen (15) copies for distribution at the Public Hearing. Each person wishing to address Council at the Public Hearing shall complete their verbal presentation within three minutes.

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

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