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TIMES

VOLUME 18 ISSUE 38

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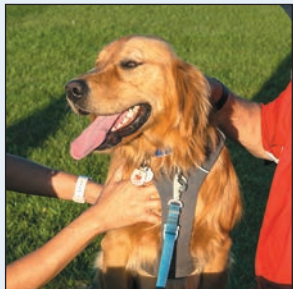
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Doggie days

Page 8



Last Cowboy event

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Blue bins roll to town

MELISSA CRISPIN-PICHE
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Strathmore residents will soon have a new way to handle their household recycling, with a blue cart program set to begin Oct. 1.

Mayor Pat Fule said the change should be straightforward for residents and, most importantly, will not bring an additional cost to households.

"The Town of Strathmore believes that it's going to be a real seamless and easy to switch over kind of a program," Fule said. "It's going to be a very good transitional one, and it's not going to cost any more money, so there is no additional cost through residential property taxes or municipal utility bills."

The program is part of Alberta's Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) system and will be managed by Circular Materials, a not-for-profit organization. Fule emphasized the recycling service will not be operated by the Town of Strathmore.

"It's actually quite interesting because there's been a lot more work with companies that produce products so that they take more of an ownership as far as recycling," he said.

The new system will use single stream recycling, meaning residents will not have to separate accepted recyclable materials before placing them in their blue cart.

Blue carts are being delivered to households that currently receive residential garbage collection from the town. Fule said residents should continue placing their carts in the same location where their garbage is normally collected including homes that receive alley pickup.

"People don't always assume that curbside does include the alleys, but in Strathmore it does," he said. "If your garbage and recycling carts were collected in the back alley, then your new blue cart will also be collected there as well."

Residents will not need to begin moving carts to the front of their properties simply because the new service is described as curbside recycling.

Continued on Page 4



Tree planting

Communities in Bloom volunteers planted trees along Centennial Drive on the morning of Sept. 19. The tree planting took place along Centennial Drive from Thomas Drive east toward Centre Street.

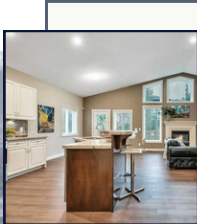
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Golden hour

The first Golden Hour event brought Golden Retrievers and their owners together at Wet Noses Bed & Biscuit in Carseland on Sept. 20. Hosted by Wet Noses, Aspire Photography & Film and the Golden Retriever Club of Alberta, the event featured an evening gathering for Golden Retrievers and included a group photo.

Joe Lepage Photo

Supporting female athletes

MELISSA CRISPIN-PICHE
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Young female athletes, their parents and coaches will have an opportunity to learn more about injury prevention, equipment and opportunities in sport during the Female Athlete Sports Talk (FAST), which returns to Strathmore on Oct. 3.

Organizer Brent Moreau, owner and operator of Active Solutions for Health, said the free event will bring together athletes, professionals, speakers and vendors with a focus on supporting girls and women in sport.

Moreau said this will be the third time the event has been held in Strathmore. The first took place before the COVID-19 pandemic, with the event returning last year following the break.

“We did it before COVID ... and it was really successful,” Moreau said. “We wanted to do it again, then COVID hit,” he said. “Then this year, we thought, ‘Let’s give it a shot again.’ We had a lot of interest in it.”

This year’s event will feature a larger vendor presence, along with speakers and athletes who will share their experiences and knowledge.

Among the companies attending will be CCM, which Moreau said will showcase equipment designed specifically for female athletes. Other vendors will also highlight protective equipment and products aimed at women and girls in different sports.

“We have great speakers,” he said. “We have some athletes. We do a panel with athletes that are doing high performance, Olympians, as well as some female athletes that have progressed into the professional world outside of sports. Their stories, it’s going to be wonderful, lots of information, lots of networking.”

Injury prevention and education will be another major part of the day. Moreau said topics will include concussions and common injuries affecting female athletes, including ACL injuries. He hopes giving young athletes, parents and coaches better information can help reduce preventable injuries.

“Injuries with female sports, especially with the younger girls, shouldn’t be happening,” he said. “A lot of that is maybe information that’s not out there, accurate information. Concussions are one of the big things, a lot of myths related to it, as well as just some of the injuries, ACL injuries, that kind of thing, you see tons of.”

Local athletes will also be represented, including 13-year-old Hailey Gordon, who plays football with the Strathmore Badgers. Her experience offers a local perspective on girls participating in sports that have traditionally had fewer female players.

Now in her third season of football, Gordon said she initially decided to give the sport a try after someone told her she could not play because it was only for boys.

“Someone told me I couldn’t, because he said it was just for boys,” Gordon said. “So, I kind of just joined the group, and I also really liked the sport. It’s a lot of fun.”

Gordon, who plays quarterback and corner, said she does not feel she is treated differently from the boys on her team and faces the same challenges as her teammates.

Moreau said there may be more opportunities available to young female athletes in the community than families realize.

“Strathmore doesn’t understand that we have a lot of female athletes that are sought after,” he said. “There’s scouting coming from the States, from the colleges, looking for athletes that are in our community because of their good work ethic. They have good grades, and that’s what they want. They’re resilient, strong.”

Moreau said companies from as far away as Australia have shown interest in the Strathmore event, including a sponsor bringing protective equipment for women in rugby.

“I think that is the exciting part of it,” he said. “There’s so many different avenues for sports in female sports and athletics.”

The FAST event takes place Oct. 3 at the Strathmore Civic Centre from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and is free to attend. More information about the event, speakers and participating vendors is available through their website (activesolutions-forhealth.com).

Chantelle de Jonge
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Wheatland County searching for next CERB board members

MELISSA CRISPIN-PICHE
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Wheatland County is looking for residents interested in helping decide how funding can support community projects across the region.

The county is currently seeking volunteers to fill openings on its Community Enhancement Regional Board (CERB), a 14-member board that reviews funding applications from nonprofit organizations and makes recommendations to Wheatland County council.

Dave Rimes with Wheatland County said the program dates back to 2012 and was designed to give residents a direct voice in decisions surrounding community funding.

“The county council was going to set aside a fund for community projects, basically,” said Rimes. “They wanted to set it up so that it had input from the community.”

The board was structured to include two volunteer representatives from each of Wheatland County’s seven electoral divisions.

“The board then reviews all the applications for the CERB program and makes recommendations to council, so it’s a very grassroots board,” said Rimes.

Most of the board’s current members are staying on as active members though Rimes said there are a couple of openings the county is hoping to fill. Members are generally appointed for a two-year terms, and some volunteers have remained involved since the program began.

“We have a couple board members that have been on there for a long time,” he said. “They enjoy the process, going through all the applications and making those recommendations, and they feel like they make a difference in their community, which they do. They’re supporting community projects.”

CERB funding is not limited to organizations located strictly within Wheatland County. Nonprofit organizations throughout the area may be eligible, including those in Strathmore and area villages.

Rimes pointed to the recent Cairnhill ball diamond as an example of a larger project supported

this year.

Applications are reviewed by CERB members and considered on their merits before recommendations are forwarded to council.

For organizations wondering whether a project may qualify, Rimes encouraged them to review the program guidelines available through Wheatland County’s website. He added that prospective applicants can contact him with questions.

“If you’re not 100 per cent sure, submit an application. The worst thing is no,” he said. “Maybe you will be eligible. The guidelines are all there but if there’s any questions, (reach out).”

The commitment for residents interested in joining the board is relatively modest. Rimes said CERB generally holds two evening meetings during March and April, when members work through the year’s applications.

He estimated the total annual commitment at approximately 20 volunteer hours when preparation and reviewing applications are included.

Board members generally receive the applications about a month before meeting, allowing them to review the material on their own schedule. There can still be a considerable amount to read with approximately 60 to 70 applications typically considered in a year.

While the number of hours may be limited, Rimes said having residents from across Wheatland County involved in the process is an important part of making CERB work.

“It’s not a huge time commitment and it is really impactful,” he said. “It really helps the program be successful, having that grassroots and really local input.”

Residents interested in serving on CERB can find information through Wheatland County’s website and submit a letter of interest to Rimes; he can also be reached by email with any questions (dave.rimes@wheatlandcounty.ca).

Nonprofit organizations interested in CERB funding can also consult the county’s program guidelines to learn more about eligibility and the application process online (wheatlandcounty.ca/documents/cerb).

Strathmore hosts Try-A-Trade Day

MELISSA CRISPIN-PICHE
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Strathmore residents had a chance to pick up the tools and get a firsthand look at careers ranging from electrical and plumbing to welding, health care and emergency services when Try-A-Trade Day returned Sept. 22.

The event is designed to be more than a traditional career fair. Rather than simply moving from booth to booth collecting information, participants will be encouraged to try activities, handle equipment and speak directly with people working in the field.

“The main goal of Try-A-Trade Day is to get people interested in the trades and introduce them to opportunities they may not have considered before,” said Trisha Breault, CED Coordinator of Community Futures Wild Rose. “We have invited high schools from across our region, but the event is open to everyone. We encourage students, adults considering a career change and anyone curious about the trades to stop by try the activities and gather information.”

Organizers used workforce information and discussions about occupations in demand across the region to help determine which careers would be represented.

Attendees were able to learn from an electrician, plumber, gasfitter, mechanic and cabinet maker, as well as people working in nursing, laboratory services, EMS and fire services.

“We wanted to do something different from a traditional career fair. Instead of only collecting information, attendees can try a task, use equipment and get a better sense of what the work is actually like,” Breault said. “The hands-on part is extremely important as it gives participants the opportunity to experience firsthand what it is like to perform tasks within that profession.”

The approach builds on what organizers saw during last year’s event, which drew just over 300 people. The booths offering an activity proved to be among the busiest and the event resulted in more than just introductions.

“We had just over 300 attendees and two students were connected with Registered Apprenticeship Program placements following the event,” Breault said. “That showed us that these introductions can lead to real opportunities.”

Organizers have put an even greater emphasis on interactive demonstrations this year and expanded the occupations represented. Plumbing and gas fitting are among the additions.

Continued on Page 4



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CLUES ACROSS

1. A place for worship

7. Referee declaration

10. Torsos

12. Used to introduce something

13. Healing method

14. Takes to the sea

15. Make law

16. French coastal city

17. Hawaiian dish

18. Young of domestic cattle

19. Women’s undergarments

21. 60-minute intervals (abbr.)

22. One after another

27. It’s a hot topic these days

28. Folk band frontman
33. They precede C

34. Heavenly

36. Fiddler crabs

37. Major Hindu deity

38. Hebrew given name

39. Cost per mile

40. __ Romeo, car

41. Rural municipality in Manitoba

44. Narratives

45. “A tragedy had __ him”

48. Iranian city

49. Praises publicly

50. Founding Father Franklin

51. Herbal tea

CLUES DOWN

1. Indian unit of mass

2. “Tears in Heaven” singer Clapton

3. Part of a sailing vessel

4. Part of (abbr.)

5. Polynesian garland of flowers

6. Keyboard key

7. One who steals

8. Large oven

9. Former CIA

10. Idea

11. Solomon Islands capital

12. Afrikaans

14. Remove thatch

17. Television network

18. Jalen Brunson is one

20. Title of respect

23. Flowering trees

24. Occurring in a tube
25. Exists

26. Woman (French)

29. Expression of doubt

30. NHL legend Bobby

31. Accomplished

32. Makes slightly wet

35. National Assn. of Manufacturers

36. Not sated

38. Poe’s middle name

40. Swiss river

41. Rhythmic pattern in Indian music

42. “Shane” actor Ladd

43. Popular whodunit board game

44. Bar bill

45. Ballplayer’s tool

46. Indicates near

47. Feet per second

STRATHMORE

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Canada



STRATHMORE WHEATLAND
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Wheatland County adjusts property boundary to accommodate existing structures

MELISSA CRISPIN-PICHE
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

A recent Wheatland County subdivision decision shows how existing buildings can play a role in determining where new property boundaries are drawn.

During a Municipal Planning Commission meeting, councillors considered subdivision application SD 2026-007 involving land near the Rocky View County boundary, northeast of Range Road 270 and Township Road 232.

The application proposed creating two 5.36-hectare parcels, while also adjusting a boundary involving one of the new lots and the remaining agricultural land.

“The boundary adjustment is intended to accommodate existing structures on lot one,” a member of the county’s planning and development staff told the commission.

Rather than establishing the new boundary without regard to what was already built on the property, the subdivision layout took the location of those existing structures into account.

The two proposed lots were already developed with private water and wastewater systems, while the two larger remainder parcels were undeveloped and intended to continue being used for agriculture.

County operations also reviewed access to the properties. One unused approach to lot one was required to be removed while existing approaches would continue providing ac-

cess to the other parcels.

As part of the subdivision process, the application was circulated to external agencies, county departments and neighbouring landowners for 30 days.

Administration reported that it received no responses from adjacent landowners. County staff recommended approval of the subdivision subject to seven conditions, and members of the Municip-

al Planning Commission approved the application.

The decision provides a practical example of how existing development can be considered when land is subdivided. In this case, the location of structures already on the property was specifically identified as the reason for adjusting the proposed boundary.

The application was approved without debate or opposition from the commission.

Try-A-Trade comes to town

Continued from Page 3

There will also be a focus on showing women and girls that careers in traditionally male-dominated trades are open to them. A female electrician and female gasfitter participated, while Women Building Futures will provide information about training and support available to women interested in the trades.

“We want women and girls to see that these careers are just as open to them as they are to anyone else,” Breault said.

The demand for skilled trades could become

increasingly important as development continues around Strathmore and experienced workers approach retirement.

“New residential, commercial and industrial development creates an immediate need for construction trades, but it also creates ongoing demand for maintenance, repair, transportation and other skilled services,” Breault said. “At the same time some experienced tradespeople are moving toward retirement. We need to introduce people to these careers now so there is a trained workforce ready to meet both new growth and future replacement needs.”

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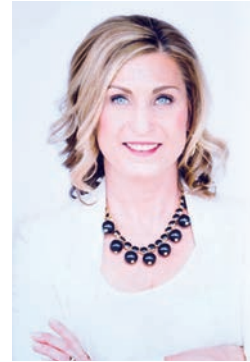
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Blue bins set to roll out across town

Continued from Page 1

“Wherever you had your garbage picked up, that’s where you’ll put your new blue cart for recycling,” Fule said.

For residents who currently pay for recycling collection through Waste Management, Fule said his understanding is that the existing service will end as the new town-wide program takes over.

“At some point it just won’t come back,” he said of the existing recycling carts. “It will be picked up and you’ll never see it

again and then that (new) blue bin will take its place.”

Fule said he does not believe residents currently using Waste Management recycling service will have to take action themselves to cancel it.

“I was told by Waste Management that it’ll just end for everybody,” he said. He added that residents should contact Waste Management if billing continues after the transition.

The change is specifically aimed at households already receiving town garbage collection. Residents who see garbage collection on their municipal utility bill will receive the new recycling service without an additional charge.

The process will be different for some people living in multifamily developments, such as condominiums, where waste collection may not currently be provided by the town.

“If you’re living in a condo, for example, you might want to talk to your property manager,” he said, adding buildings not currently using the town garbage collection program could potentially register for the new program. “If you’re not getting any blue bin pickup and you want it, then talk to your condo board or your property manager.”

Information about which materials can and cannot be placed in the carts will be made available to residents. Fule said the town will also look at providing additional information through its website and social media channels.

Beyond making recycling more convenient, Fule said one of the biggest benefits he hopes to see from the program is a reduction in the amount of household waste Strathmore sends to landfill.

“It’s going to decrease the amount of materials that are going to go into landfill,” he said.

Fule pointed to the growing responsibility being placed on producers to deal with the materials and packaging they introduce into the marketplace along with the opportunities to turn some of those materials into new products.

“More and more you’re having large companies that are going to recycle their materials,” he said. “They have to take ownership for that.

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Sweet tunes

Hope Bridges welcomed singer song writer Adam Corkett to their concert on Sept. 15 at the Hope Covenant Community Church. The afternoon kicked off with some songs from local musicians lead by certified music therapist Sarah Van Peteghen, the new Music Discovery facilitator. Corkett delighted audience members with some of his original tracks as well as some sing along songs such as Three Little Birds, which he performed with the Music Discovery class.

Melissa Crispin-Piche Photo



Celebrating 25 years

Kaleidoscope Travel and Cruise marked 25 years in business with an open house celebration and Travel Partner Showcase at Field Stone Fruit Wines on Sept. 17. The milestone event brought together clients, travel partners and community representatives for an afternoon of travel information, refreshments, prizes and giveaways. A special program and cake cutting recognized the local business's quarter-century of service.

Joe Lepage Photo

Wheatland MPC approves 450-kilowatt solar project near Hussar

MELISSA CRISPIN-PICHE
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

A 450-kilowatt solar facility northwest of Hussar is moving ahead after receiving approval from Wheatland County's Municipal Planning Commission.

The commission approved development permit DP2026-120 during its Sept. 15 meeting, subject to 15 conditions.

The facility is planned for approximately two acres of an 11.45-acre property about 4.5 kms northwest of Hussar, near Range Road 203 and Township Road 243A.

Development officer Suzanne Hayes said the property was redesignated Industrial General in May to accommodate the solar project and a related data processing facility.

"The generated electricity will be exported to the Fortis grid to offset the electricity consumption associated with the data processing facility on the same site," Hayes said.

The solar facility will operate continuously and will be remotely monitored, with no regular employees or customer visits expected.

One issue addressed before the application reached the Municipal Planning Commission was the distance between the solar panels and an undeveloped road allowance along the northern boundary.

The applicant originally sought permission to reduce the setback to 10 metres. Following concerns from the county's transportation department, one row of panels was removed and the setback increased to 23 metres.

The change also reduced the project from its originally proposed 600-kilowatt capacity to 450 kilowatts.

The decision prompted questions from commissioners about why the larger setback was necessary.

Administration said there was no certainty the road would eventually be developed but the operations department wanted to preserve that possibility.

"It could also be a safety issue just having that distance to the road," Stefan Kunz, Manager of Planning and Development added pointing to potential sightline concerns near the intersection.

Another issue raised during the meeting was what happens to the solar facility at the end of its life, particularly if the company operating it is no longer around.

Coun. Berle Hebbes noted the reclamation plan had been prepared by Azgard Solar and asked who would be responsible if the company "pulls up stakes" or ceases business.

"If the company was no longer involved in the activity, if we were enforcing the reclamation plan, ultimately it's the landowner's responsibility," Hayes res-

ponded. "The county enforces to the landowner ultimately."

The project underwent technical reviews dealing with glare, wetlands, stormwater, traffic, environmental impacts, noise and eventual reclamation.

Hayes said the glare assessment found no predicted impacts to nearby roads, intersections or residences.

A wetland was also identified on the property. The solar infrastructure will remain at least 40 metres away which exceeds a recommended 20 metre buffer.

Traffic associated with the development is expected to be concentrated during construction.

"Traffic impacts are expected to be limited to approximately 17 commercial delivery trips during the three-month construction period, with only six to eight maintenance visits annually afterwards," Hayes said.

A new approach from Range Road 203 will also be required.

Fire Services requested an emergency response plan covering both the solar and data processing facilities.

The plan has been accepted by the county but will have to be updated once final construction and operational details are known.

No concerns were received from surrounding landowners during circulation.

"Administration is recommending approval because the proposal is consistent with the applicable statutory plans and land use bylaw, is appropriately scaled for the Industrial General site and has addressed potential impacts through technical studies and mitigation measures," Hayes said.

The commission subsequently approved the permit with all 15 recommended conditions.

Curbside recycling collection is coming to Strathmore!

Starting on October 1, 2026, your community will move to an enhanced recycling program.

- ✓ Recycling will be easier and includes more materials like empty aerosols and foam packaging.
- ✓ Your new 360-litre recycling cart, guide and collection schedule will be delivered in September.
- ✓ Your recycling program will be managed by Circular Materials, a not-for-profit organization committed to building an efficient and effective packaging and paper recycling system across Alberta.

Learn more at circularmaterials.ca/Strathmore



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Friday, September 25,
7-9 p.m.,
Strathmore Civic Centre



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No to the Nine. Stay in Canada.

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 6, 2026, 9:00 a.m. | Council Meeting
October 7, 2026, 9:00 a.m. | ASB
October 13, 2026, 9:00 a.m. |Municipal Planning Commission

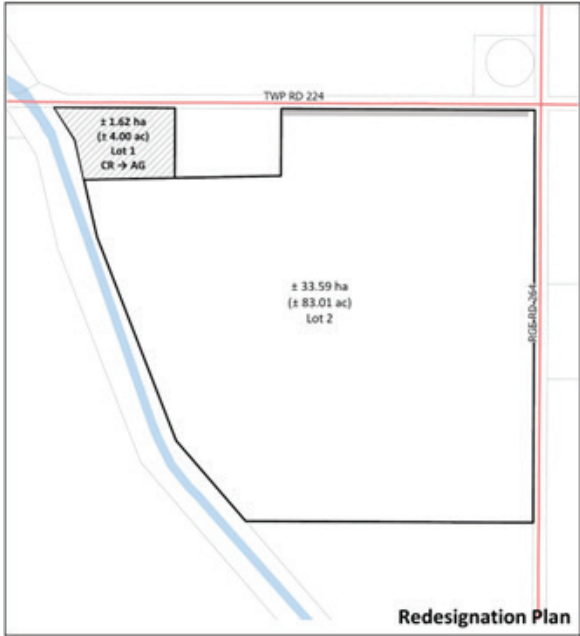
To join the call, dial 403-917-1764 and enter the PIN 47001 when prompted.
Agenda packages can be found on our website.

Public Hearings

Wheatland County Council Chambers October 20th, 2026 at 11 a.m.

Wheatland County will consider the following applications for Public Hearing at the regular Council meeting on Tuesday, October 20th, 2026.
The following public hearings begin at 11 a.m. and proceed until all applications have been heard:

File No: LU2026-006
Bylaw #: 2016-14
Location: Lot 3, Block 1, Plan 1010624 – NE-20-22-26-W4M
Proposal: To redesignate Lot 3, Block 1, Plan 1010624, from CR District to AG District to facilitate a subsequent boundary adjustment between the subject lands and Lot 1, Block 1, Plan 0810016, all within NE-20-22-26-W4M, resulting in a ± 2.83 hectare (± 7.00 acre) parcel and a ± 32.38 hectare (± 80.01 acre) remainder parcel



File No: LU2026-005
Bylaw #: 2026-11
Location: Lot 2, Block 2, Plan 0413687 – SE-31-25-23-W4M
Proposal: To redesignate a portion of the subject lands from Agriculture General District to Country Residential District, to facilitate a subsequent subdivision resulting in a ± 1.82 hectare (± 4.50 acre) parcel and a ± 23.19 hectare (± 57.31 acre) remainder parcel



Comments may be forwarded in writing to Wheatland County or in person at the above meeting. The application files may be reviewed in the County Office during regular office hours – Monday to Friday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Any comments provided will become part of the public record in accordance with Section 13(1) of Alberta’s Protection of Privacy Act. Any personal information on submissions made regarding applications is collected under the authority of the Protection of Privacy Act, Section 4(c) that information relates directly to and is necessary for an operating program or activity of the public body.

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Make a real impact in your community by responding to fires, collisions, and medical emergencies.

No experience required, full training and equipment provided.



Requirements

- Must live within a 15 minute response time to the fire hall
- Be 18 years of age or older
- Valid Class 5 drivers license
- Provide a satisfactory criminal record check including a vulnerable sector check
- Provide a satisfactory drivers abstract
- Be willing to learn how to become a firefighter through training courses provided
- Eligible to work in Canada

If the opportunity to become part of Wheatland County Fire Services interests you, please email: fireservices@wheatlandcounty.ca to find out how you can become a Paid on Call or Volunteer Firefighter.



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- Accounting Assistant, Acocunts Payable
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wheatlandcounty.ca/careers/



Pride paint

Approximately 50 community members of all ages gathered outside the Strathmore Town Hall on Sept. 20 to help refresh the community's pride crosswalk for the fourth year. Strathmore Pride provided leadership for the annual touch-up, with supporters joining from Strathmore and the wider region, including family members who travelled from Lethbridge to take part.

Joe Lepage Photos



Big win

The Strathmore Badgers peewee football team defeated the Olds Huskies 39-0 in Olds on Sept. 19. The Badgers, currently sixth in the standings, will host Ponoka Sept. 23 before a bye week. They will then travel to Rocky Mountain House on Oct. 10 trying to secure the play-off spot they currently hold.

Miriam Ostermann Photos

Musical kickoff

MARIO PRUSINA
Times Editor

Alberta country musician Joel Ostrom will kick off the Strathmore Musical Arts Society's latest concert series Oct. 3 at the Strathmore Travelodge.

Ostrom, a fourth-generation Albertan who grew up west of Carseland, brings a background that combines country music, guitar and the Alberta rodeo scene to the stage.

Despite picking up music in high school, Ostrom's career has skyrocketed in a short amount of time.

"I really started playing guitar when I was about 15, so around Grade 10. I hadn't really done much with music before that," he said. "We took piano lessons when we were kids – myself and my two sisters. When I was in high school, I started taking guitar lessons from a guy who lived locally near Carseland. I also played in church with my mom and one of my sisters, playing music for the Sunday morning services.

"When I went off to university, I started spending more and more time practicing and learning stuff on my own. Then I decided I wanted to study music, so I did. I earned a Bachelor of Music degree from Ambrose University in Calgary."

Since then – and technically still to the present – he's been a freelance guitar player, playing for many different bands and artists.

"There are lots of musicians who do that. In the country music scene, at least, it's rare to find a band or artist who has one dedicated group of musicians playing with them all the time," said Ostrom. "There aren't always enough gigs to keep a musician occupied full-time as part of one dedicated group.

"So, if the guy who usually plays guitar for you is unavailable for the next gig because maybe he took a gig with someone else, you go and get another freelance player. Everybody kind of plays with everybody."

However, after a few years of freelan-

cing, he wanted to venture out on his own and make an impression.

"Around 2019, I decided I wanted to start my own band and front my own band. I basically wanted to play shows and play the songs that I wanted to play," he said. "When I would freelance for other people, I might sing four or five songs in one night, but they weren't necessarily songs I had written. They were just songs I would sing and play.

"So, I started my own band in 2019 and was able to pick and choose the songs I wanted to play. Since then, I've been getting shows and gigs under my own name and performing with my own band (Tin Star)."

Ostrom is now looking forward to the Strathmore Musical Arts Society concert.

"You feel a little bit closer, one-on-one, with the audience," he said. "The size of the venue will change the dynamic of what kind of performance you're going to put on. If it's a larger venue, you can usually get away with playing louder and maybe playing some heavier music, which can be fun.

"But I've always liked older country music that's a little bit softer, and that pairs well with a smaller venue because it doesn't necessarily call for louder volumes or a heavier emphasis on the drums and just being louder overall."

He will be joined by opening act Dallas Larsen for the Oct. 3 performance.

The concert is the first of four shows planned by the Strathmore Musical Arts Society for the upcoming season.

Bottle Rock-It will perform Nov. 21, with Chase Morgan and Brettyn Rose as opening acts. The Travelling Mabels are scheduled for Feb. 27, with Aaron Krabsen opening, while Maggie's Wake will close out the series April 10 with Charlie Ewing as the opening act.

All shows will be held at the Strathmore Travelodge, with dinner at 6:30 p.m. and the concert beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$60 can be purchased online (strathmorearts.com).

Cottonwood Courts - Strathmore

Third sanctioned (Alberta Horseshoe Pitching Association- AHPA) horseshoe tournament hosted by the Strathmore Cottonwood Courts Horseshoe Pitching Club was held this past weekend (September 12 & 13).

Thanks to our generous sponsors, the weekend was a big success.



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TECA Golf Simulators and Sports • NAPA Strathmore

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The Strathmore Club is looking for new members, of all ages to come and enjoy this sport from April to October. For more information please contact club President - Wes Walker at 403-324-6250

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Great show

Riders tested their mettle during the annual Last Cowboy Standing bull riding event at the Strathmore Ag Grounds on Sept. 19. Presented by Lazy P Rodeo Company, the action-packed afternoon showed why the event was named Bull Riders Canada's Event of the Year in 2022 and 2024.

Joe Lepage Photos

Mobile mammography service coming to Strathmore

MARIO PRUSINA
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

A mobile mammography service will be in Strathmore later this month and into October, providing breast cancer screening for eligible individuals.

The Screen Test mobile mammography trailer will be at the Strathmore Stampede Grounds on the east side of the Remuda Building.

The service will be available Sept. 25-26, Oct. 1-3 and Oct. 5-6.

Screening is available at no cost for eligible individuals between the ages of 45 and 74 and appointments are required.

A mammogram is an X-ray of the breast and is used to help detect breast cancer at an early stage, when treatment may be more effective.

Screen Test operates mobile mammography clinics throughout Alberta to improve access to breast cancer screening in communities where mammography services may not be readily available.

Individuals between 45 and 74 can discuss their breast cancer risk with a healthcare provider to determine whether screening is appropriate. Screening is also available through participating radiology clinics and some hospitals.

To book an appointment or learn more about the program, call 1-800-667-0604.

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Season opener

The Holy Cross Collegiate senior girls volleyball team opened their season when they hosted Strathcona Tweedsmuir on Sept. 16. Despite losing all three sets, the Hawks are optimistic for the upcoming season.

Joe Lepage Photos



Marathon of Hope

Participants make their way through Kinsmen Park during Strathmore's annual Terry Fox Run on Sunday, Sept. 20. The event welcomed people of all ages to walk or run at their own pace to support cancer research, continuing Terry Fox's Marathon of Hope.

Joe Lepage Photo



Great run

Students from Crowther Memorial Junior high took part in their schools annual Terry Fox Run on Friday, Sept. 18. The day was promising with blue sky and full sun. The school has been participating in the Terry Fox Run for over 30 years, carrying on the hard work and determination Terry would be proud of.

Melissa Crispin-Piche Photo

ARTS ON 817 PRESENTS

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October 24, 2026 - 7:30 pm

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Individual tickets—Adult - \$40.00
Youth - \$10.00 - 17 and under

Upcoming Concerts:
December 5, 2026—Calgary Fiddlers' Fiddle Fantasia
February 6, 2027—Debut Candlelight Concert with Wildflower
May 1, 2026—Luminous Voices with special guests the Rosebud Choir

Tickets can be purchased in person at the Vault, online at thevaultonline.ca/collections/tickets or by e-transfer smoretreasurer@gmail.com.
Online purchases must be picked up at the door the night of the concert.



On your marks

Students from Sacred Heart Academy and Holy Cross Collegiate took part in their annual Terry Fox Run around Kinsmen Lake on Sept. 17, continuing a longstanding tradition that honors Fox's Marathon of Hope and raises awareness for cancer research.

Joe Lepage Photos

Planning for the future

CHANTELLE DE JONGE
Chestermere-Strathmore MLA

More school spaces and career-training opportunities are opening across Alberta, alongside investments in rural internet connectivity and plans for future electricity needs. Our government is supporting Albertans to have better access to everyday services while building more opportunities to secure a prosperous future right here at home.

Alberta is working with Saskatchewan and the Northwest Territories to prepare for growing electricity demand and to strengthen the reliability of the power grid across the region. Premier Danielle Smith has signed an agreement that will allow the three jurisdictions to share information and explore the development of nuclear energy, including large reactors and small modular reactors. This deal will also look

at building or expanding power lines between the three provinces so electricity can move more easily when demand is high. Alberta's government is developing a nuclear energy roadmap for early 2027, which will help guide decisions about whether and how nuclear power could become part of the province's future energy mix. The goal is making sure Alberta has enough reliable and affordable power to support growing communities and industries.

An additional 1,833 Alberta households will soon have access to high-speed internet through two newly funded projects, supported by a joint \$24.8 million investment from our government and the federal government. These projects will deliver high-speed internet to rural and remote residents, making it easier for them to access online learning and essential services, while helping local businesses con-

nect with customers and new markets. When Alberta launched its broadband strategy in 2022, nearly 201,000 households didn't have access to high-speed internet. Today, more than 98 per cent of Alberta households are connected, and further projects are underway to reach even more communities.

Families across the province will have even more choice in education as new charter schools move forward. Through the Schools Now program, our government has committed nearly \$84 million to advance four new public charter schools, with planning and design work now approved. These projects are expected to create nearly 4,280 new student spaces and renovate more than 870 existing spaces. Their specialized programs and different teaching approaches give parents greater opportunity to find the right learning environment for their children's needs. Last year through the Schools Now program, the Rural Route Agriculture Academy opened just outside of Strathmore, providing K-12 public charter education with an agriculture focus. Together, these investments bring the number of charter school projects supported through the Schools Now program to 12 across the province.

More than 8,000 additional post-secondary spaces will create new opportunities for Albertans to prepare for careers in in-demand fields. Alberta's government is investing more than \$148 million over three years to support this expansion, including nearly 1,000 spaces in nursing, more

than 150 in paramedicine, more than 750 in engineering, and nearly 1,000 in education. Technology and skilled trades programs will also benefit from this investment. By expanding access to these programs, students will have more opportunities to pursue rewarding careers, while helping address our province's growing need for healthcare professionals, teachers, and skilled workers. This investment builds on nearly \$313 million committed through two previous rounds of funding to expand post-secondary enrolment across Alberta.

Finally, I am pleased to share that True North Society received a grant of \$75,000 through Alberta's Community Pathways to Justice program for 2026-27. This funding will help support survivors of gender-based violence and strengthen community justice pathways in Strathmore and area.

Reliable services and accessible education will help families build their lives here in Alberta and give businesses more confidence to invest and create jobs. Alberta's government will continue investing in the infrastructure and training needed to support economic growth and to connect communities with the services they need across the province.

As always, please free to reach out to my office with your feedback and questions (Chestermere.Strathmore@assembly.ab.ca).

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

Busy summer leads to a busy fall

DAVID BEXTE
Member of Parliament Bow River Riding

It has been a busy summer across Bow River!

Over the past few months, I have attended rodeos, parades, community celebrations and agricultural events across the riding. I have visited local businesses and communities, and spoken with residents about what is working, what is not, and what you expect from your representative in Ottawa.

I appreciate every invitation and the warm welcome I have received across Bow River. There is always more to see and more people to meet, and I am already looking forward to another summer in the riding next year.

I value the conversations that come with these visits. Hearing directly from you about the issues affecting you and your communities helps me better re-

present Bow River in Parliament.

I have also continued working on my Bill, C-273, the FARM Act. I have been meeting with farmers and agricultural organizations to hear their feedback, discuss the bill and build support for giving Canadian farmers faster access to the tools they need.

This summer has given me more time at home. After a busy spring in Ottawa, I was glad to be back in southern Alberta, working on the farm and seeing familiar faces across the riding.

Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to stop and talk, share a concern or simply say hello this summer. When Parliament resumes this fall, I will take what I have heard from you back to Ottawa. I will continue to be a strong voice for Bow River, hold the government to account and demand the transparency Canadians deserve.

It is a privilege to represent you.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Pre-decided AI projects make a mockery of public input

To the Editor

Albertans are being told that the government is listening, but the process now unfolding around AI data centres shows something very different. The province holds community consultations led by committee members appointed by the government itself. The decisions are already made before anyone walks into the room. The town hall meetings function as theatre, not democracy. Citizens speak, officials nod, and nothing changes because the outcome was set long before the public arrived.

This is not how a representative system is supposed to work. When 71 per cent of Albertans oppose large AI data centres near their homes, yet the government announces more than 12,000 megawatts of capacity anyway, the issue is not disagreement. It is disregard. A government cannot claim democratic legitimacy while advancing policies its constituents overwhelmingly reject and while staging consultations that have no influence on the final decision.

Democracy requires genuine participation, not scripted performances. Albertans deserve a process where public input shapes outcomes, not one where public

input is collected only after the outcome is locked in.

Ken Riley,
Bassano

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Fore a good cause

The 2026 Strathmore Oilmen's Fall Classic Golf Tournament was held Sept. 17 at the Strathmore Golf Club. The four-person scramble, open to those currently or formerly involved in the oil and gas industry, supported local charities, with \$2,800 donated to the Wheatland Food Bank and \$2,600 donated to the Strathmore & Wheatland County Christmas Hamper Society.

Joe Lepage and Sean Duthie Photos

Two men arrested after alleged rural Alberta crime spree ends near Strathmore

MELISSA CRISPIN-PICHE
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

What began with a suspicious vehicle at a Crossfield gas station before dawn, ended more than 16 hours later with a damaged pickup forced off a highway near Strathmore and two men in police custody.

RCMP say the Sept. 9 investigation stretched across several southern Alberta communities, drawing officers from multiple detachments and eventually bringing in an emergency response team and a Calgary police helicopter.

Staff Sgt. Mark Wielgosz, commander of the Strathmore RCMP detachment, told reporters the events began at about 3:43 a.m. when an Airdrie RCMP officer encountered a suspicious vehicle at a gas station in Crossfield.

Police attempted to stop the vehicle after an officer observed a driving offence, but it took off.

Rather than begin a pursuit, officers kept watch from a distance. The vehicle was eventually abandoned and its occupants got into a pickup truck.

Investigators later determined the abandoned vehicle had been stolen from a Calgary residence only hours earlier.

At that point, however, police did not yet know the encounter would become the first piece of a much larger investigation.

"We had an opportunity to communicate with our neighbouring detachments and essentially connect the dots," Wielgosz said.

The next reported encounter came shortly after 3 p.m.

Didsbury RCMP were called after a newer model Ford F-350 showed up at a rural property where police allege people inside the truck attempted to steal diesel from a farm fuel tank. The property owner confronted them and they left.

An officer later found the truck and attempted another traffic stop. Once again, it fled and officers did not pursue because of safety concerns.

Police believe that F-350 was the same pickup used to collect the occupants of the stolen vehicle near Crossfield earlier in the day.

By early evening, the investigation had shifted east. At about 6:17 p.m. Drumheller RCMP received a report from a work site where a dark blue F-350 had arrived. Police allege its occupants got out and stole a second pickup, this time a blue 2022 Ford F-350 Tremor. Both trucks then left the site.

Not long afterward, another call came

in reporting a blue F-350 ramming a gate at a rural oil lease.

Responding officers found two blue F-350s but both fled when emergency lights were activated. By then police believed the individual reports were connected.

RCMP's Real Time Operations Centre became involved, along with a critical incident commander and members of the Emergency Response Team.

Officers from several detachments were sent into the area while assistance was requested from the Calgary Police Service's HAWCS helicopter.

At approximately 7:54 p.m. a rural landowner reported a vehicle driving through a field and causing extensive damage.

Another report came from the Rosebud Hutterite Colony where police were told a blue F-350 Tremor had driven through the community. Colony members chased the vehicle away and it was last seen travelling south on Highway 21 toward the Strathmore area.

That information brought more police into the operation as officers attempted to contain the suspects' movements.

One of the trucks was spotted at approximately 8:14 p.m. by an Emergency Response Team member.

With the HAWCS helicopter overhead tracking the pickup, police tried to bring the vehicle to a stop without beginning a conventional pursuit on the ground.

Officers first placed a covert tire-deflation device in its path (spike-belt). The attempt failed, according to RCMP, and the F-350 continued across rural farmland.

Wielgosz said the truck caused significant damage as it travelled through fields and fences while trying to evade police.

A second spike-belt deployment near Highway 9 and Range Road 272 was more successful, partially disabling the pickup. It still did not stop.

The truck made it onto Highway 9 and travelled a short distance before Emergency Response Team officers used what RCMP described as a tactical vehicle intervention to force it from the roadway. The driver and passenger were then arrested.

Police said a subsequent search of the truck turned up brass knuckles, knives and bear spray.

Wielgosz described both accused as "prolific offenders" with significant previous police involvement. Police also said one of the men was wanted on multiple outstanding warrants from the Cold Lake area, which were executed

following the arrest.

Both men were remanded in custody after judicial interim release hearings and were scheduled to appear in court in Okotoks on Sept. 18. The allegations against them have not been proven in court.

RCMP say the investigation is not finished and that police are still working to determine the extent of the damage left behind, particularly on rural properties where trucks allegedly travelled through fields, fences and gates. That could include losses beyond the cost of repairing fences or other structures.

Wielgosz said investigators are trying to determine whether some of the affected farm fields had been harvested. Damage to an unharvested crop could substantially increase the financial loss attributed to the incidents.

Police expect additional charges may follow as investigators identify affected property owners and calculate the damage.

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NOTICES

Strathmore & District Curling Club

ANNUAL FALL 'SEASON OPENER' MEETING

Wednesday, October 7th

6:30 p.m. Refreshments

7:00 p.m. Meeting

(Proposed Bylaw changes to be reviewed)

Everyone welcome!

TIMES CLASSIFIEDS

SUDOKU

6	7	1	9	4	5	3	2	8
3	8	4	1	6	2	5	9	7
9	5	2	7	3	8	6	1	4
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1	4	9	6	8	3	7	5	2
5	3	6	4	2	7	9	8	1
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NOTICE OF NOMINATIONS (for By Election)

Irrigation Districts Act (Sections 31,54, 58, 59)
Local Authorities Election Act (Section 11, 25, 26)

Western Irrigation District in the Province of Alberta

Notice is hereby given that nominations are open from the date of this publication until 4:00 pm on **Thursday, October 8, 2026**, for the election of candidates for the following offices and will be received at the location of the office of the Western Irrigation District set out below:

Office(s)	Number of Vacancies	Division Number
Director	1	4

Electoral Division 4 comprises Townships 24 in Ranges 26, 27 and 28, Township 25 in Ranges 25, 26 and 27, Township 26 in Ranges 25, 26, 27, 28 and Township 27 in Ranges 25, 26, 27. Nominations must be in the form prescribed by the Irrigation Districts Act and can be obtained from: Western Irrigation District Office: **A-1000 Pine Street, Strathmore.**

DATED at the Town of Strathmore in the Province of Alberta, this 15th day of September 2026.

Troy Tangedal
CEO
Returning Officer

CLASSIFIEDS

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Responsibilities include transplanting, watering, handling & maintenance of plant material and preparation of orders. Labourers are required to work a minimum of 40 hours per week and must be available to work different shifts, 7 days a week. Positions are available starting mid February and last until late June and/or October. No previous work experience or qualifications required. Starting wage is \$18.34 per hour. Hiring for both Standard and Rockyford locations.

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Kathy Marie Adams, owner of NW 34-23-26 W4M (132.20 acres), is seeking unconditional offers to purchase all of this property, such offers to be submitted by tender on a Tender Terms form as described below.

Located 1 mile Southwest of Cheadle, Alberta, the 132.20 acre parcel consists of cultivated land. There are no grain bins or buildings on the property. The property generates surface lease revenue of approximately \$8,550.00 per year at current rental rates. To arrange a viewing of the property, contact Kathy Adams at: kathyadams32@ymail.com.

Conditions of Tender:

Prior to 5:00 p.m., Alberta time, on September 25, 2026, sealed tenders, marked "Adams Tender", on a completed Tender Terms form, together with a certified cheque or bank draft payable to "Walsh LLP, in trust" as a deposit for an amount equal to 5% of the tendered purchase price, must be submitted to:

Eric D. Dalke
 c/o Walsh LLP
 2800, 801 6th Avenue SW
 Calgary, Alberta, T2P 4A3.

A Tender Terms form can be obtained from Eric D. Dalke: 403-267-8454 or email: edalke@walshlaw.ca. The deposit will be returned to the unsuccessful tenderers. A tender must be submitted on a completed Tender Terms form or the tender will not be considered. On acceptance of a tender by the owner, the Tender Terms will form a binding contract with the successful tenderer.

Details of submitted tenders will not be made public. The highest or any tender may not necessarily be accepted. Tenderers whose tenders have not been accepted shall be notified on or before **October 2, 2026**. The successful tenderer shall be notified by telephone, fax or email on or before 5:00 p.m. on **September 29, 2026** of the acceptance of the tendered offer. The latest date for closing shall be **October 20, 2026**.

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Upcoming Council Meetings

October 7, 2026 | 6 p.m.
October 14, 2026 | 6 p.m.
October 21, 2026 | 6 p.m.

Regular Meeting of Council
Committee of the Whole
Regular Meeting of Council

Come Say Hi

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

Honouring the Survivors Dinner

Location | Civic Centre.
Date | September 26, 2026.
Time | 5:30 to 8 p.m.



Sports Centre Court Feasibility Study.
Community Feedback Wanted!

We're studying what to do with undeveloped court space at the Strathmore Motor Products Sports Centre.

It's currently a concrete pad. We want this space to become a valuable recreation space for the community and help meet your needs.

We're exploring possibly developing it into a multi-use court space for sports like basketball, pickleball, volleyball and other recreation or community activities..

No decision has been made at this point. We first need to gather more information – such as community feedback and estimated costs – so Council can make an informed decision.

Share your thoughts:

- Take the survey – Sept 8 to 21.
- Drop into the Open House – Sept 17, 5:30 to 8 p.m. Visit [Strathmore.ca/CourtStudy](https://strathmore.ca/CourtStudy) to learn more.

2026-2027
Waste Collection Schedule

The new waster 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](https://strathmore.ca/WasteSchedule).

Join our team.
Career opportunities available.

Are you looking for a new opportunity? The Town of Strathmore is hiring! We have a variety of positions available across different departments.

- Contract Group Fitness Instructor/Personal Trainer
- Seasonal Parks Operator (Fall/Winter)

Check out [Strathmore.ca/Careers](https://strathmore.ca/Careers) for more information about current opportunities and discover your bright future with the Town of Strathmore.

Fall Registration Open!
Strathmore Motor Products Sports Centre Fall programming is now open!

Looking for ways to stay active, learn something new, or keep the kids engaged this fall? We've got something for everyone!

Registration opened on August 4 for our exciting lineup of fall programs, including:

- Cardio & Strength
- Seniorcise
- Stay & Play
- School Closure & PD Day Camps
- Mini Sport Adventure
- Mini Movers
- Yoga & Stretch

Whether you're looking to build strength, improve flexibility, stay connected with your community, or keep your little ones active and having fun, our fall programs are designed to help you make the most of the season.

For more information about programs and activities, visit: [Strathmore.ca/SMPSportsCentre](https://strathmore.ca/SMPSportsCentre)

Maintenance Notice.
Aquatic Centre closed for annual maintenance.

Every fall, the Strathmore Aquatic Centre closes for a few weeks to complete its annual maintenance shutdown. This important work helps keep the facility clean, safe, and operating efficiently for swimmers and visitors throughout the year.

This year's shutdown started on August 17, 2026, and includes a variety of maintenance projects such as replacing chemical lines, cleaning filters and replacing filter sand, repairing pool tiles, servicing valves, and completing maintenance on the waterslide and steam room.

Additional facility upgrades include replacing fire sprinkler heads in the pool area, performing boiler maintenance, and completing electrical system work.

There's a lot happening behind the scenes during this closure, all with the goal of keeping the Aquatic Centre in top condition. Watch for progress updates throughout the shutdown.

For more information, contact the Aquatic Centre at 403-934-3325.

New Addition.
Blue Recycle Carts Coming Soon.

Starting **October 1, 2026**, blue carts will be available to Strathmore residents for curbside recycling collection, with more accepted materials and single-stream collection.
(no sorting required!)

