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COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER



The Press



Locally Owned & Operated



Vol. 12 - Issue 21 | Tuesday, May 23, 2023

Fire department training hours rose twelve percent in 2022 as members dedicated over 5600 hours to their community

By Serena Lapointe

The Whitecourt Fire Department's annual report is presented to Town Council each year. The information enables Council to see training hours completed, projects, public engagement, and calls for service over the previous twelve months, detailing the hard work achieved by department members. Fire Chief Brian Wynn, Deputy Fire Chief Aaron Floyd and Director of Community Safety Lee Hardman joined to provide the update.

"I want to express my gratitude to all members of the fire department for their significant contribution to this community

continued on page 3



Just skimming the surface.

'Sprucing' things up at Spruceview Lodge thanks to a donation from Whitecourt's Rotary Club

By Serena Lapointe

The Rotary Club of Whitecourt recently fulfilled a wish list of items. After a conversation with a friend who worked at the Spruceview Lodge, Annette Kay, Secretary with the Rotary Club of Whitecourt, said Rotary saw an opportunity to help.

"We were having a conversation one day about her role there at Spruceview Lodge and what she does. She takes care of some of the recreational activities and said she is often looking for things

to help her in her role, and they don't have a very big budget," explained Kay. "I asked her to put a list together, and it ended up with a letter coming to us. It was at the perfect moment because we had just supplied money to Well-spring and the Seniors Circle, so why not do it to Spruceview too!"

Kay said the staff at the Spruceview Lodge had wanted to spruce up the courtyard by adding some shrubbery and a big tree. The greenery would add enjoyment for seniors using the outdoor

area. "They also wanted to purchase some patio umbrellas and camping chairs that they could fold up and take away with them," said Kay.

Rotary Club members, list in hand, went and purchased ten fold-up chairs and had the Rotary Club of Whitecourt name embossed on the back. Two bright blue chairs can be seen in the image shared by Rotary members on the club's social media. With the club's name on the chair, it will show Ro-

continued on page 11

Rotarians, alongside staff and residents of Spruceview Lodge with a big check in hand.



The Whitecourt Rotary Club recently celebrated its 25 anniversary in the municipality. The community-minded group of Rotarians continuously works to improve their town by supporting groups and events within their cause mandate. Recent donations to help seniors have left many residents grinning from ear to ear with gratitude.



Patrick Carew

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Canfor's Annual Open House

Canfor will be holding an open house at the Allan and Jean Millar Centre on May 24th and at the Fox Creek Multiplex on May 25th between 4-7 PM. The general public and stakeholders will have the opportunity to review our planned activities for block and road development, harvesting, reforestation and herbicide treatment for areas in which we operate. Public and stakeholder input is gathered and utilized to influence operations where site specific concerns are identified such as trails, camping areas, recreational areas etc.

We would like to invite you to visit us at AJMC and Fox Creek Multiplex on May 24th & 25th between 4PM - 7PM.

PUBLIC NOTICE

www.whitecourt.ca | facebook.com/TownofWhitecourt | 780-778-2273



NOTICE OF DECISION

The following decisions were made by the Development Authority:

Application 23-040: 81 Rivervalley Estates – Administrative variance – Reduce side yard setback from 5.0m to 4.4m – Approved with conditions.

Date of Decision: May 10, 2023 Appeal Closes at 4:00pm: May 31, 2023

An Appeal of the above decision(s) may be made by submitting a written appeal and appeal fee (\$300) to the Office of the Secretary of the Subdivision and Development Appeal Board, Town of Whitecourt Administration Building, Box 509, Whitecourt, Alberta, T7S 1N6 prior to 4:00pm on the above noted date. Any person(s) affected by the said proposal(s), has the right to appeal prior to the above date.

COMMUNITY DISABILITY SERVICE PROFESSIONALS WEEK

MAY 22 – 28, 2023

Whitecourt Town Council encourages the citizens of Whitecourt to recognize May 22 – 28 as Community Disability Service Professionals Week. Support workers provide care for cognitively or developmentally challenged in our community with care, compassion and positivity. With the aid of Support Workers, our challenged community members are able to develop life skills and be accepted as a full and thriving part of our community.

During Community Disability Service Professionals Week, we encourage you to take the time to appreciate and acknowledge the efforts of those workers who provide this vital service in Whitecourt and area.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ANC Timber to Share Forestry Plans at Virtual Open House

WHITECOURT, ALBERTA, May 1 2023—This spring, forest company ANC Timber (Alberta Newsprint Company) will be holding a virtual “open house”, to share forestry operating plans for the year ahead. These events provide the general public and stakeholders with the opportunity to review the company’s planned activities in road development, harvesting, hauling, reforestation and herbicide treatment for the current forestry year. Public stakeholder input is gathered and utilized to influence operations where site specific concerns are identified such as trails, camping areas, recreation areas etc.

We would like to invite you to visit the websites below to view each companies upcoming forest activities. We will have a variety of plans available for review including: Areas of Operations for 2023-2024 season; Company Reforestation Plans; and Herbicide Treatment Plans.

Alberta Newsprint Company (ANC) -

<http://www.albertanewsprint.com/woodlands/>

For more information, contact:

James Norman
ANC Timber Ltd
780-706-8242

Rhoda Jeanne Maxwell

June 26, 1939 – April 6, 2023

Rhoda Jeanne Maxwell of 83 years passed away surrounded by those she loved, on April 6, 2023. Rhoda was born in Ticonderoga, New York and married the love of her life in 1964 before they immigrated to Canada. Rhoda made a living as a school teacher. Her passion was always her family



Rhoda’s family extend their heartfelt thanks to Dr. Jane, the nurses and staff of Whitecourt Healthcare Centre, Pleasant View Lodge as well as Whitecourt Home Care for their compassion and care towards Rhoda. A Memorial will be held at Magnolia Hall in Magnolia, Alberta, June 24, 2023.

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the LORD Forever.

PSALM 23:1-6

with many beautiful memories made at their family farm. Rhoda enjoyed gardening and knitting. She will be greatly missed by her loving children; Ross (Sara), Eddie (Mara), Catherine (Rick); sixteen beautiful grandchildren, Hannah (Fred), Jonathan (Zee), Amy, Emma, Kimberly, Brandon (Shelby), Caitlyn, Shannon, Sadie, Talise, Torria, Luke, Levi, Clea, Ethan, Emily; four great-grandchildren, Kingston, Lenora, Adora, Arcadia. Extended family, Ed (Joan) Murray and Marsha (Walt) of Washington State. She is predeceased by husband Dean Maxwell; parents, Lester and Vera Smith and sisters, Mary and Charlotte.

Condolences may be sent by visiting www.affinityfuneralservice.ca.

Arrangements in care of Nonie Ouellet at:

780.778.3330



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NEED HELP?

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Addiction Helpline 1-866-332-2322

Health Link 811



As we approach the spring and summer seasons and spend more time outdoors, let's not forget to follow our sun smart guidelines: protect your skin by covering up, avoid peak hours of sun exposure, and apply sunscreen.

For all open career opportunities, please check out our website at albertanewsprint.com → Careers.

continued from page 1

and keeping it safe,” began Hartman. He pointed out that three department members had received the Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Award (Fire Chief Brian Wynn, Deputy Fire Chief Aaron Floyd, and Captain Bill McAree).

The Whitecourt Fire Department has served the municipality since 1958 and has become a shining example in the province, with members achieving hundreds of hours of training. Last year, when all hours were counted for training, meeting, public education, work party and response times, the final count reached 10,639 hours. The dedication by members to rack up extensive hours as they do, all to keep the community safe, as dedicated volunteers, is top-notch.

Fire Chief Wynn said he was glad to have members back to regular training hours since the pandemic. He said members did tower training, wildland-urban interface structure protection training, water rescue and nozzle training and that several members had taken the Red Cross Advanced First Aid, which is 80 hours.

Training alone totalled 5671 hours for department members, a twelve percent increase from 2021. Members train in various formats, including attending conferences, third-party instructor



Past Deputy Fire Chief Wayne Andrusiak helped show the importance of Firesmart techniques in an educational video on the Whitecourt Press FB page. (Search "by using fire")

The Whitecourt Fire Department's 2022 Annual Report was recently presented to Town Council. The hardworking men and women who make up the department, volunteering their time to keep the community safe, have a lot to be proud of.

courses, in-house training, and weekly competency training. Members have used large buildings in the community for things like tower training, allowing members to become comfortable with the far reach of Tower 1. An image in the report showed a training exercise at the four-storey Kanata hotel. Chief Wynn called the highly trained membership the “backbone of the fire department.”

Throughout 2022, the Whitecourt Fire Department responded to 343 calls in the region. The list was divided into 25 categories, including gas leaks, false alarms, hazards, vehicle accidents, and different assist calls. “If we look at the total call response by type, there is a couple of things that we are seeing. One of them would be our ambulance assists.

In 2020, we had 47. In 2021, we had 119; last year, we had 126. That is a trend that is greatly rising that is going to affect our service and what we can do.”

The second response by type that Chief Wynn brought attention to was motor vehicle accidents. In 2021, Chief Wynn said there were 69. In 2022, there were 85.

Public education is a big part of life as a firefighter, bringing safety awareness to youth. Chief Wynn said that with lifting restrictions, the crew returned to the schools for in-person fire safety presentations, presenting to 1,015 students between kindergarten and grade 6. The department worked with students from both school boards and did demonstrations and fire hall tours. Sparky the Fire Dog is always a massive hit with

children. “Sparky is definitely recognized within the community by all the kids. It’s great to see that he is a welcome part of the department.”

Along with education, department members work hard to build community spirit by engaging with the public regularly. The Whitecourt Fire Department participated in the Whitecourt Chamber’s 2022 Trunk or Treat, climbed the CN stairs in gear for the Annual Firefighter Stairclimb Challenge, and assisted with the firework displays, including Canada Day and New Year’s Eve. Last year, members also helped drive the decommissioned Engine 3 to Mazatlán, Mexico, so it could still see use in its retirement. They also worked alongside Students Against Drunk Driving (SAAD) during Candy Cane Checkstop,

handing out treats while reminding motorists to drive sober.

Additions to the equipment arsenal in 2022 included a Wildfire Structural Protection Unit (sprinkler trailer) thanks to a \$100,000 grant (Intact Municipal Climate Resiliency). The department also added tablets to all apparatuses (vehicles) to enhance communication and availability of communication/mapping/tracking information.

For 2023, Fire Chief Wynn said they had brought in some new game-changing equipment. Hydraulic extrication tools with new battery-powered technology provide greater portability than corded tools, are faster to respond with and are 30 percent more powerful. Chief Wynn and Deputy Chief Floyd brought a device to show Town Council

how it worked.

The department has also ordered a replacement for their ARGO ATV. The new unit will be a side-by-side model with tracks. It will be outfitted with a mobile water supply and pump while still maintaining the ability to carry a patient on a stretcher. “We are waiting on a delivery date. With extended deliveries right now, it could be anytime from now until August. As soon as it gets here, we will be training our members on it before we put it into service.”

Chief Wynn added that the department completed an organizational assessment of post-traumatic stress impacts on members. He said they would develop a resource guide thanks to the Alberta Supporting Psychological Health in First Responders Grant Program funding.



Testing a tower truck's capabilities during pre-covid training.



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Weekly grief support group starting February 7 through April 25, 2023, Tuesdays, from 6:30pm to 8:30pm., at Crossroads Community Church, 4419 44 Avenue, Mayerthorpe. \$35 for 12 sessions includes your personal GriefShare Workbook. Pre-registration is required by calling Reverend Ruth Lotholz at 780-786-2695.



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The Food Bank relies on donations of cash or food in order to help families in need.
Open Mon, Wed & Fri 11:00am to 2:00 pm
Phone: 780-778-2341

Located within the Carlan Services Community Centre
The Whitecourt Food Bank is operated by the Town of Whitecourt Food Bank Coordinator and dependent on volunteers to operate. The Food Bank relies on donations of cash or food from individuals and organizations. Local grocery stores drop off baked goods including bread and pastries weekly. Other corporations and schools schedule food drives throughout the year.

Open: Mon, Wed, & Fri 11 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Phone: 780-778-2341

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If you know of any male requiring assistance, please Call Lorne's Blanket at 780-778-0952



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- Tax program & Bag Lunch Program

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WHITECOURT GROUP OF NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS

All meetings are in person and online (hybrid)

- Mondays 7:30pm
- Wednesdays 7:30pm

Meetings held at the Family Worship Center upstairs.

ZOOM ID: 818 413 483 PASSWORD: gratitude



WHITECOURT CANCER & WELLNESS SOCIETY

Providing timely and easily accessible financial support for Whitecourt patients and their families who are dealing with a cancer diagnosis.

This can include help with parking costs for hospital visits, living expenses and unforeseen medical expenses. Applications can be made through the Drs at both Whitecourt Medical Clinics or (office hours, can leave a message): **Willow McIntyre** (Community Cancer Navigation Nurse, McLeod River PCN) **780-779-0079**, **Kim Nendsa** (President of Whitecourt Cancer & Wellness Society) **780-778-0932**
wctcancerwellness@gmail.com

**Monthly meetings have been postponed due to COVID-19



24/7 CRISIS LINE
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1.800.467.4049



WELLSPRING FAMILY RESOURCE & CRISIS CENTRE



@whitecourt_shelter



Family Resource & Crisis Centre

www.whitecourtshester.ca

Shelter:

Wellspring Provides a Safe, Short Term, Supportive Residential Environment for Women With or Without Children, Fleeing Family Violence & Experiencing Crisis.

Outreach Support Program:

Ongoing Support, Advocacy, Follow-Up & Support Groups for Women, Men and Youth in Whitecourt and Surrounding Communities.

Child Support Program:

Child Care & After School Programs - Age Appropriate Programs & Support for Children Who Have Been Affected By Family Violence

Preventative Education:

Provides Workshops, Information and Awareness to Schools, Community Organizations, Agencies and Businesses

Whitecourt AA Group Of Alcoholics Anonymous



Meetings three times each week

- Monday 8:00 p.m..... (12 Step Meeting)
- Wednesday 8:00 p.m...(Open Topic Meeting)
- Friday 8:00 p.m.....(Big Book Meeting)

Located at the United Church Basement on Legion St. (formerly 5201 - 50 Street)

More info Contact: (780) 396-8777. Please Leave A Message For Our AA member or Contact Addictions Helpline @1(866)332-2322

Land Use Bylaw changes coming for garden suites and secondary suites in Woodlands County

By Serena Lapointe

During a recent Governance and Priorities meeting, Woodlands County Council discussed garden and secondary suites. Joan Sloatweg, Manager of Community & Planning Services, explained to Council that changes needed to be made to Land Use Bylaw (LUB) to reflect the Municipal Government Act (MGA) changes.

"The Municipal Government Act changed in 2020 what they called Golden Girl Amendments. In other words, you can't make reference to family relationships, financial disparity or whatever it may be in your Land Use Bylaw. It must be land use related. We need to make an amendment to that particular definition," explained Sloatweg.

The wording in Woodlands County's current LUB specifies who can have and use a Garden Suite. The language determines that a garden suite can only be occupied by "a person or persons who are related through blood, marriage or adoption to the Registered Owner of the Lands and for which there exists a relationship of dependency due to financial, physical or mental incapacity and which contains one dwelling unit."

The changes to the MGA, in effect since December 2020, speci-



Joan Sloatweg (left), Manager of Community & Planning Services for the Woodlands County.

Garden suite, secondary suite, or secondary residence? Woodlands County Council discussed all three during a recent Governance and Priorities meeting. The group discussed changes needed for the Land Use Bylaw and how they might decide to tweak it further.

fy that land use bylaws cannot "treat residential users differently based on their relationship to one another." The fact sheet on the Alberta Government's website clarified further, stating that "these amendments strengthen the legislation and ensure flexible and affordable housing options are accessible to everyone, including unrelated seniors living together." With the changes, municipalities cannot pass a land use bylaw regulating residential users (s.640-8).

Though changes came forward in 2020, Sloatweg explained that Woodlands County's bylaw had not yet been updated to reflect the amendments. "Our solicitors did indicate to us that at the

time that amendment was made that we would continue to use our bylaw as is until such a time that our Land Use Bylaw was reviewed and amended. As Council is aware, that amendment will be probably starting fall of this year. We are currently looking at our Municipal Development, and this is next on the agenda." She added that secondary suites would also be reviewed at the same time.

Reeve Burrows said he felt the concern of Council was that they had been "running foul of the new MGA" by not making the changes sooner. He asked what issues that could raise. "If someone challenged it, Municipal Affairs could do an investigation and say, hey,

you need to amend that, but our solicitors felt that if we have somewhere in our timeline that we would be amending our document, it would be a sufficient argument," explained Sloatweg. She said the review and amendments were supposed to happen last year, but time resources did not allow it to. "It is on schedule to happen this year," she added.

Councillor Deane questioned the "philosophy" behind the County's policy with respect to it only allowing a familial relationship for someone to reside in a garden suite. He wondered why it couldn't be used as a rental for someone other than a family member, citing low rental options.

Sloatweg said it was the philosophy of the Council of the day that had decided they didn't want those types of rental properties. She said some residents didn't want two neighbours beside them instead of one. "It was decided then that they would put that familial relationship in, and that was often the primary purpose of people coming to us. Initially, it was just for grandparents or parents. A few years later, we opened it up so that it could be any family relationship as long as there was some type of financial need there."

Sloatweg added that with things changing, Council could open it up and look into it for rental properties. "You can play with those definitions. Garden Suite could still be there and then essentially just taking out that family relationship (part) so that you can have a temporary structure that is smaller than the family residence as a second home, a secondary suite, so to speak."

Councillor Kusch asked about the difference between a garden suite and a secondary suite. "Generally, a garden suite is its own dwelling unit, and a secondary suite is something that is internal, like, say, on top of a garage. You can have a basement suite where you have a secondary entrance to that particular location,

or you can have a garage with living quarters on top of it. That is what we had defined as a secondary suite. A garden suite is generally for relatives."

Councillor Kuelken mentioned that he had a secondary residence on his property, which had been there since 1978. "It's registered as a secondary residence on the property, but it's neither a garden suite nor a secondary suite. So, how does that fit into the equation?" Sloatweg asked Councillor Kuelken how many acres he had, to which he said a half-section. "In our Land Use Bylaw, anything over 70 acres in size can have a second residence. Generally, it is to be used for agricultural purposes. So, say you have a farm hand you employ, then they can live in that second residence." Councillor Kuelken said with several of those in the county, he wanted to make sure people knew the difference between a garden suite, a secondary suite, and a secondary residence.

Changes to the Land Use Bylaw for Woodlands County are slated to begin this fall. Before changes can be made to a Land Use Bylaw, the proposed changes must be advertised for two weeks, and public hearings must occur, giving residents a chance to voice their views.



A military tow truck.

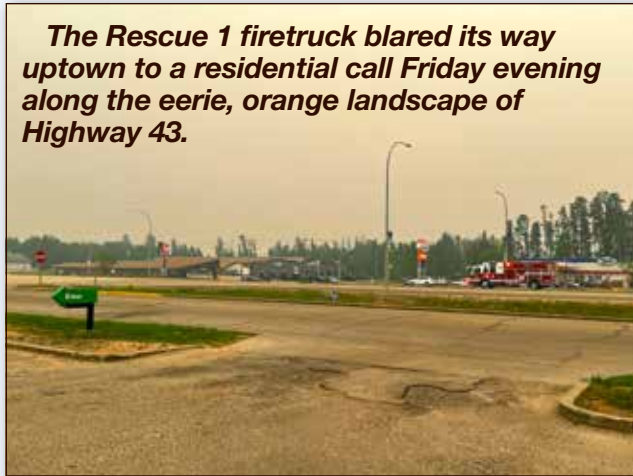


A row of military vehicles.

A crew of military personnel arrived in Whitecourt last week. Two groups deployed provincially: 3rd Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry and 1 Combat Engineer Regiment. Residents in the Festival Park parking lot late last week would've spotted numerous military vehicles from the 1 Combat Engineer Regiment, the group assigned to this region. The large group was staying at the Whitecourt Air Cadets Squadron building and were using part of the Festival Park parking lot for their vehicles. The Canadian Armed Forces members joined efforts to combat the flames wreaking havoc within the area. Their arrival was much appreciated by those working hard on the frontlines, those living under alerts or evacuation orders, and those watching the chaos unfold around them.



Looking towards Walmart.



The Rescue 1 firetruck blared its way uptown to a residential call Friday evening along the eerie, orange landscape of Highway 43.



A smoky view at Festival Park, one day before the slides and splash park opened for the season.

Smoke had lingered over the community with varying degrees of cover for nearly two weeks as fires raged in the region. However, on Friday around 9 am, the intensity of the smoke cover went up several notches, painting the town a pale yellow. An orange-red sun attempted to shine through, but it had all but lost to the thick smoke by mid-afternoon. By 4 pm, the sky was orange. What would have typically been a bright evening was reduced to dismal light as the air quality lowered.

DISCRETIONARY USE DEVELOPMENT PERMIT APPLICATION

The Municipal Planning Commission will be making a decision on the following development permit application, as per the Woodlands County Land Use Bylaw, at their regular meeting **Wednesday, June 7, 2023 at 4:00 p.m. at the Whitecourt Municipal Office**, downstairs.

Section 19 of the Woodlands County Land Use Bylaw provides opportunity for any person who may have comments on the proposed development to deliver to the Development Officer, a written statement of their concerns indicating: their full name and address and the reasons for their comments to the proposed use.

If you have any comment or concern regarding this proposal you may provide a written statement via email to peter.mckay@woodlands.ab.ca prior to **4:30 p.m., May 31, 2023**, or you may attend the meeting.

Comments received will be taken into consideration by the Municipal Planning Commission.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION	DEVELOPMENT PERMIT APPLICATION NUMBER	PROPOSAL
PT. SE 3-59-13-W5M	15-024-2023	Dwelling: replace existing 3rd residence

Information regarding this application may be obtained by inquiring prior to **4:30 p.m., May 31, 2023**.

Attention: Peter McKay, Development Officer
peter.mckay@woodlands.ab.ca

Woodlands County
Box 60, #1 Woodlands Lane, Whitecourt AB T7S 1N3
Telephone: 780-778-8400
Toll-Free: 1-888-870-6315

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Comments received will be taken into consideration by the Municipal Planning Commission.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION	DEVELOPMENT PERMIT APPLICATION NUMBER	PROPOSAL
PT. NW 10-59-10-W5M Lot 1 Block 1 Plan 112-0353	15-025-2023	Intensive Recreational Use: (personal use only)

Information regarding this application may be obtained by inquiring prior to **4:30 p.m., May 31, 2023**.

Attention: Peter McKay, Development Officer
peter.mckay@woodlands.ab.ca

Woodlands County
Box 60, #1 Woodlands Lane, Whitecourt AB T7S 1N3
Telephone: 780-778-8400
Toll-Free: 1-888-870-6315

2023 ROADSIDE VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Woodlands County Agriculture Services will be carrying out its roadside vegetation management program once again this year.

COMMENCING APPROXIMATELY JUNE 12, 2023

No Spray Agreement holders must have the No Spray signs posted **prior to June 5, 2023**.

Upon signing the No Spray Agreement, the Landowner accepts the responsibility for vegetation control along the road right of ways adjacent to their property. Landowners must carry out control prior to **August 1**,

2023. Agriculture Services will conduct inspections on the above dates to determine if control methods are satisfactory.

In cooperation with the landowners we can make our roadside vegetation management program an efficient and economical way of controlling the spread of weeds, and make our road system safer for the general public to drive on.

Dawn Fortin, Manager, Agriculture Services
(780) 584-3866, Toll Free: 1-866-584-3866



JOHN BURROWS
Councillor for Whitecourt West
Division 2
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Phone: 780-706-4747



BRUCE PRESTIDGE
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DAVE KUSCH
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Phone: 780-778-5337



ALAN DEANE
Councillor for Whitecourt
Central Division 3
E-Mail: alan.deane@woodlands.ab.ca
Phone: 780-778-0934



PETER KUELKEN
Councillor for Goose Lake/
Freeman River Division 6
E-Mail: peter.kuelken@woodlands.ab.ca
Phone: 780-284-2425





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Corns & Callouses
Flatfoot
Hammertoes
Warts

Athlete's Foot
Ankle Sprains
Diabetic Foot Care
Forefoot Pain
Ingrown Toenails



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Whitecourt

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Pharmasave
5112 50 St.
Whitecourt, AB

Grande Prairie

Parkland Medical
Centre
#202, 10127 121 Ave
Grande Prairie, AB

Airdrie

Apple Wellness Center
229 1 St. SW
Airdrie, AB

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CONTACT: JOEL MELANSON

587-335-0322

joel@larrmanagementcorp.ca

Stop bullying!

Tuesday, May 23, 2023
www.whitecourtpress.com



The Press

If your life is in danger or you know someone's life is in danger DIAL EMERGENCY NOW 911!

If you are experiencing suicidal thoughts, you need to know that you're not alone. You can also call if you are not in crisis, seeking additional information. The new Canada Suicide Prevention Service (CSPS), by Crisis Services Canada, enables callers anywhere in

Canada to access crisis support by phone, in French or English: toll-free **1-833-456-4566** Available 24/7
Crisis Text Line (Powered by Kids Help Phone) Canada Wide free, 24/7 texting service is accessible immediately to youth anywhere

in Canada by texting TALK to **686868** to reach an English speaking Crisis Responder and TEXTO to **686868** to reach a French-speaking Crisis Responder on any text/ SMS enabled cell phone.
KidsHelpPhone Ages 20 Years and Under

in Canada **1-800-668-6868** (Online or on the Phone). First Nations and Inuit Hope for Wellness 24/7 Help Line **1-855-242-3310**
Canadian Indian Residential Schools Crisis Line **1-866-925-4419**
Trans LifeLine – All Ages **1-877-330-6366**

Have you been bullied, and want to share your story?

Email wctpress@telus.net All submissions remain confidential

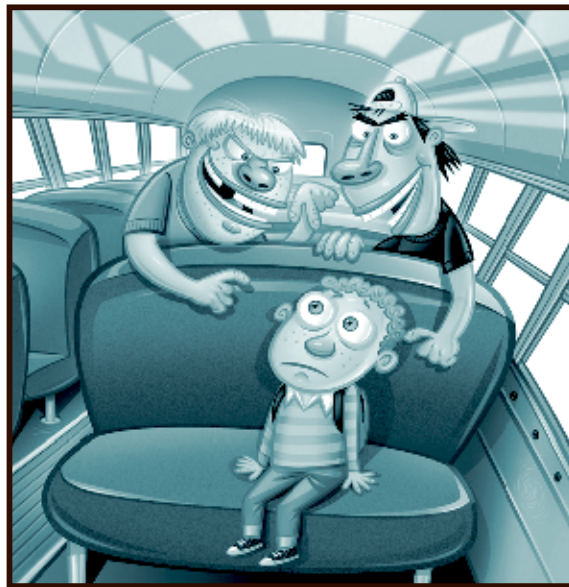


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Putting a face on suicide



Danielle Cox

Age 15

Every 40 seconds somewhere around the world someone dies by suicide, that's 99 people every 66 minutes. Every day, that's almost 100 people in the United States alone, and over 2160 worldwide. Putting a Face on Suicide (PAFOS) is a suicide awareness project that creates posters and videos to pay tribute to those we have lost to suicide with dignity and respect. PAFOS humanizes the daunting statistics; lovingly replacing numbers with faces.

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Odds of a child being diagnosed with autism: 1 in 310

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To learn more of the signs of autism, visit autismpeaks.org

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The Press is printed on high quality newsprint using vegetable based ink. We encourage you to share, save, reuse, rehash & recycle.

Letter to the Editor policy

The Press welcomes readers to write letters to the Editor. A maximum of 300 words is preferred but not necessary. Letters must carry a first name or two initials with surname and include an address and daytime telephone number. All letters are subject to editing. Please email letters to wctpress@telus.net.

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One Canadian Dollar = 0.74 US Dollar
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Dollar Values as of May 23, 2023

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A look at the local weather	Tue., May 23	Wed., May 24	Thu., May 25	Fri., May 26	Sat., May 27
P.O.P.	A Few showers	Cloudy with sunny breaks	Mainly sunny	Mainly sunny	Mix of sun and clouds
High	60%	40%	30%	10%	30%
Low	12°C	16°C	20°C	22°C	23°C
Wind	7°C	6°C	8°C	10°C	10°C
24-Hr Rain / Snow	N 21 km/h 5-10mm	W 17 km/h	SW 11 km/h	N 13 km/h	SE 8 km/h ~1mm



Eagle River Casino & Travel Plaza Now Hiring Cashiers NOC 65100

Responsibilities:

- Greet customers
- Receive and process payments by cash, cheque, credit card, or automatic debit
- Provide information to customers
- Calculate foreign currency exchange
- Calculate total payments received at end of work shift and reconcile with total sales
- Verify the age of customers when selling lottery tickets, alcohol or tobacco products
- Operate cash register
- Process money, cheques, and credit/debit card payments
- Scan Items
- Tabulate total payment for goods or services required
- Receive payment for goods or services
- Calculate daily/shift payments received and reconcile them with total sales
- Suggestive selling
- Provide excellent customer service
- Assist customers with self-service items
- Participate in promotional activities

Qualifications:

- Some secondary school education is usually required. High school graduation may be required by some employers.
- Eligibility for bonding may be required.
- A casino gaming license may be required for cashiers working in gambling casinos.
- Must be able to complete Smart training courses
- Must be able to complete AML

Experience: 2 – 3 years, or we will train.

Education: Some post-secondary, high school may require.

Terms of Employment: Permanent full-time 40-hour work week.

Language: English

Employment Conditions: Shift work, Day, Evenings, Weekends, Holidays, Nights.

Wage: \$15.00 per hour.

Benefits Package: Vision, Dental, Health after 90-day probation period.

Location: Twp.Rd.602A, Hwy 32 North, Whitecourt, AB Canada.

Address: Eagle River Casino & Travel Plaza P.O Box 10 Whitecourt, Alberta Canada T7S-1N3

Contact: 780-779-2727 or Fax 780-706-7451

Visit our Website: www.eaglerivercasino.ca

How to Apply: Send resume to HR@eaglerivercasino.ca, mail or fax

Woodlands County Council recap

Woodlands County Council passed Bylaw 600/23 – 2023 Property Tax Rate which includes the following:

GENERAL MUNICIPAL	TAX RATE
Residential & Farmland	3.3062
Non-Residential	12.9280
EDUCATION TAX	
Residential and Farmland	2.2175
Non-Residential	3.3993
SENIOR'S FOUNDATION	
Lac Ste. Anne Foundation	.1972
Barrhead & District Social Housing Association	.1398
Linear (Machinery & Equipment)	.1927
DESIGNATED INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY	.0746
*see full bylaw for all class rates	

Bylaw 601/23 – 2023 Tax Penalty was passed. A 6% penalty will be applied to taxes left unpaid by June 30. An additional 6% penalty will be applied if tax amounts are not paid by August 31.

The next scheduled Council meeting is Wednesday, May 24, 2023, 9:30 am. The meeting is held in-person at the Municipal Office in Whitecourt and streamed on the Woodlands County YouTube channel. Agenda packages are available on the Woodlands County CivicWeb Portal.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

www.whitecourt.ca | facebook.com/TownofWhitecourt | 780-778-2273

If you enjoy a fast-paced, progressive work environment and you have a passion for serving the local community - then this may be the opportunity for you! We believe that our values of diversity, collaboration, innovation and mutual respect bring out the best in our team, and we are currently looking to fill the following positions:

- Job# 23-025, Facility Maintenance Operator, Temporary Position.

Please visit www.whitecourt.ca for all employment opportunities and details on how to apply.



Eagle River Casino & Travel Plaza Now Hiring Casino Shift Manager NOC 62022

Responsibilities:

- Co-ordinate, assign and review the work of casino workers
- Establish work schedules and procedures and co-ordinate activities with other work units or departments
- Resolve work-related problems and prepare and submit progress and other reports
- Hire and train staff in job duties, safety procedures, and company policies
- Requisition of supplies and materials
- Ensure smooth operation of computer systems, equipment, and machinery, and arrange for maintenance and repair work
- May perform the same duties as workers supervised
- Perform the same duties as workers supervised
- Assist clients/guests with special needs
- Co-ordinate, assign and review work
- Ensure smooth operation of computer systems, equipment, and machinery, and arrange for maintenance and repair work
- Establish work schedules and procedures and co-ordinate activities with other work units or departments
- Hire and train staff in job duties, safety procedures, and company policies
- Requisition materials and supplies
- Resolve work-related problems and prepare and submit progress and other reports.

Qualifications:

- Completion of secondary school is usually required.
- Completion of college courses related to the area supervised may be required.
- Experience in the occupation supervised is usually required.
- AGLC casino gaming license will be required.
- Must be able complete Smart training courses
- AML certificate

Experience: 3 – 5 years.

Education: Completion of secondary school is required, casino gaming license.

Terms of Employment: Permanent full-time 44-hour work week.

Language: English

Employment Conditions: Shift work, Day, Evenings, Weekends, Holidays, Nights.

Wage: \$23.08 per hour.

Benefits Package: Vision, Dental, and Health after a 90-day probation period.

Location: Twp.Rd.602A, Hwy 32 North, Whitecourt, AB Canada.

Address: Eagle River Casino & Travel Plaza P.O Box 10 Whitecourt, Alberta Canada T7S-1N3.

Contact: 780-779-2727 or Fax 780-706-7451

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continued from page 1

tary's involvement with the community when the seniors are out in public. "It's good for the public to know that Rotary Club is busy helping in the community because that's why we are here."

Kay added that staff members said the chairs would let them take seniors on outings, such as an afternoon at Festival Park. "The chairs easily fold up and aren't heavy to carry. They also have little tables on them. It makes everything so much easier and more enjoyable. They were over the moon receiving them, and that's what it's all about."

The list provided to Rotary included various items Spruceview staff would like to have to help facilitate arts and crafts programming. "One of the items I know they are looking to get is cold glue guns. Seniors can use a cold glue gun without the worry of burning themselves. This way, staff don't have to take over and do the craft for them because they can do it independently."

Another item on the list was a full-sized portable keyboard. "They have a piano, but it's in one room, whereas if they have a full-sized keyboard, they can use that in multiple places." The list also included tablecloths. "That's an expense that isn't necessarily seen as a necessity, so you may not budget for it when you're running the place, but if you had them, they'd be nice," explained Kay.

"They were very, very overwhelmed and happy with the amount of money

that we gave them because now they can do some things with that which will make a difference for the lives of seniors, and that's really important," said Kay. Staff, Rotarians, and residents can be seen in the image gathered around a big check for \$12,500.

Over the years, the Rotary Club of Whitecourt has supplied funds to many different groups and projects. The previously named Rotary Park is an obvious one, but the group also does regular free swims at the AJMC, barbecued for the Park Parties last summer (and will be this summer, too) and has provided free range days at the golf course. The club also gave seven local youth leadership experience opportunities. Five students attended the RYLE Annual Leadership Conference at Camp Nakamun, while two youths recently participated in the Rotary Adventure in Citizenship Program in Ottawa.

Kay explained that the causes they support need to fit within their pillars. Pillars include: supporting education, protecting the environment, clean water and sanitation, peace, and growing local economies through community development and enhancement. Enhancing the lives of seniors at Spruceview Lodge fits within their community pillar.

"My husband and I moved to Whitecourt in 2017, and I joined the club the following year. I joined because I needed a connection to the community, and what better way to do that than join Rotary! It's a feel-good way to get into the community, and I just love it."



Eagle River Casino & Travel Plaza Now Hiring Executive Chef NOC 6321

Responsibilities:

- Plan and direct food preparation and cooking banquets and specialty functions.
- Plan menus and ensure food meets quality standards
- Estimate food requirements and may estimate food and labour costs
- Supervise activities of sous-chefs, specialist chefs, cooks
- Arrange for equipment purchases and repairs
- Recruit and hire staff
- May prepare and cook food on a regular basis or for special guests or functions.
- Demonstrate new cooking techniques for and new equipment to the cooking staff
- Prepare and cook complete meals or specialty food, such as pastries, sauces, soups, salads, vegetables, meats, poultry, and fish dishes. Create and decorate food displays for special events such as banquets.
- Instruct cooks in the preparation, cooking garnishing, and presentation of food.
- Maintain records of food costs, consumption, sales, and inventory
- Analyze operating costs and other data

Qualification:

- Post Secondary diploma in Business Management, Culinary Arts, or Hospitality
- 3-5 years of supervisory or management experience in the Hospitality or Restaurant industry.
- Ability to provide leadership and communicate with all staff members.
- Ability to compute basic mathematical calculations.
- Knowledge of proper sanitation procedures and food safety guidelines.
- Understanding of food handling and sanitation standards.
- Understanding of restaurant operational procedures.
- Effective decision-making skills.
- Ability to acquire and maintain relationships e.g., associates, customers, and vendors.
- Positive communication and interpersonal skills.
- Positive attitude and a consistent display of professionalism.
- Innovative, detail-oriented, and quality conscious.
- Ability to endure abundant physical movements in carrying out job duties.
- Demonstrated ability to lead and direct a team.
- Ability to respond quickly in a dynamic and changing environment
- Knowledge of cost analysis, fiscal management, and budgeting techniques as an asset

Education: Post-secondary in business management, Culinary Arts or Hospitality

Terms of Employment: Permanent full-time, 44-hour work week

Language: English

Employment Conditions: Shift work, Day, Evenings, Weekends, Holidays, Nights.

Wage: \$70,000 - 80,000 depending on experience.

Benefits Package: Vision, Dental, and Health, After a 90-day probation period

Location: Twp.Rd, 602A, Hwy 32 North, Whitecourt, Alberta

Address: Eagle River Casino & Travel Plaza P.O Box 10 Whitecourt, Alberta T7S 1N3

Contact: 780-779-2727 or fax 780-706-7451 **Visit our website:** www.eaglerivercasino.ca

How to apply: Send your resume to HR@eaglerivercasino.ca, mail or fax.



Eagle River Casino & Travel Plaza Now Hiring Security Guard Supervisor NOC 62029

Responsibilities:

- Co-ordinate, assign and review the work of security guards and other service workers not elsewhere classified
- Establish work schedules and procedures and co-ordinate activities with other work units or departments
- Resolve work-related problems and prepare and submit progress and other reports
- Hire and train staff in job duties, safety procedures, and company policies
- Requisition of supplies and materials
- Ensure smooth operation of computer systems, equipment, and machinery, and arrange for maintenance and repair work
- Monitor quality and production levels
- May perform the same duties as workers supervised.
- Arrange for maintenance and repair work
- Assist clients/guests with special needs
- Co-ordinate activities with other work units or departments
- Ensure smooth operation of computer equipment and machinery
- Establish work schedules and procedures
- Handle emergency situations
- Monitor quality and production levels
- Prepare and submit progress and other reports
- Requisition or order materials, equipment, and supplies
- Resolve work-related problems
- Supervise the operation of mechanical equipment and machinery
- Supervise, co-ordinate and schedule (and possibly review) activities of workers
- Train staff/workers in job duties, safety procedures, and company policies.

Qualifications:

- Completion of college courses related to the area supervised may be required.
- Experience in the occupation supervised is usually required.
- Certification or licensing AGLC.
- Must be able to complete Smart training course
- Must have a valid driver's license class 5
- Must be able to complete AML.

Experience: 2 – 3 years.

Education: Completion of secondary school an asset.

Terms of Employment: Permanent full-time 44-hour work week.

Language: English

Employment Conditions: Shift work, Day, Evenings, Weekends, Holidays, Nights.

Wage: \$20.77 per hour.

Benefits Package: Vision, Dental, Health after 90-day probation period.

Location: Twp.Rd.602A, Hwy 32 North, Whitecourt, AB Canada.

Address: Eagle River Casino & Travel Plaza P.O Box 10 Whitecourt, Alberta Canada T7S-1N3

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