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Vol. 12 - Issue 18 | Tuesday, May 2, 2023

Enhanced programming incoming for six community groups/organizations

Thirty thousand dollars in grant funding was recently divvied among six community groups and organizations. The cash will be put towards enhanced services and programming, including the start-up of a brand-new league. The Whitecourt Baptist Church is one of the six to receive funding. Read story page 5



A request to expand a popular Woodlands County campground raises concerns



The area in question, to the right of the campground. Read story page 2



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A request to expand a popular Woodlands County campground raises concerns

By Serena Lapointe

A piece of property flanking the Athabasca River in Fort Assiniboine, located beside Woodlands RV Park and River Marina, was recently up for discussion around the table for Woodlands County Council. A couple of months ago, the campground owner put forward an RFD (Request for Decision) seeking to purchase the riverfront property to grow his business.

At the February 15 meeting, Council voted to defer the decision and requested a public consultation with area residents. On March 28, the meeting took place, and 45 people were in attendance to discuss the matter. Andre Bachand, acting CAO of Woodlands County, explained that twenty-seven comments were received: eighteen opposed, six in favour and three not applicable.

Comments opposed to the expansion ranged from potential noise is-

sues to land access and riverbank erosion from the tree removal. One attendee said they were against it because it would lead to more jet boats and noise pollution, saying it “takes away from our peaceful, quiet community.” Some concerned attendees pointed to increased traffic causing problems, with others pointing to reduced access to open water as their reason for being against it.

Those supporting the expansion spoke of the campground owner as meticulous in maintaining the current campground and said they supported his plans. Others pointed to the financial support the campers provide to the community by shopping at the local stores and using local services.

The results from the public consultation were provided to Woodlands County Council at their April 26 meeting. The recommendation from

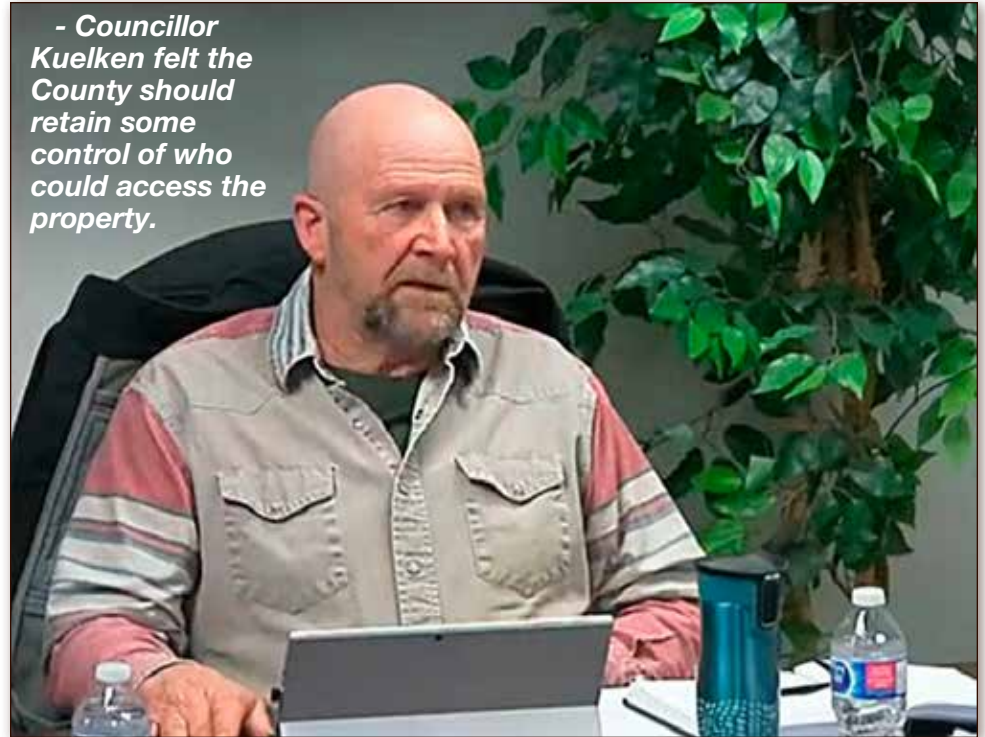
Administration from the February 15 meeting remained the same. They recommended moving forward with the land transfer to the campground owner, less a 10m wide area along the roadway, pending a recreation plan approved by the County. Administration’s recommendation also included collecting all costs from the owner related to the transfer, including surveys, consultant fees and legal fees. Bachand explained Administration’s recommendation saying that the County’s Area Structure Plan for the property identified a pathway but nothing else. With the campground owner offering to open up a trail along the north side, the ASP, as it stood, was covered.

For Councillor Alan Deane, the feedback from the public was glaring. “I would not be prepared to support going forward with the recommendation

continued on page 3



Councillors Kusch (left) and Deane (right).



- Councillor Kuelken felt the County should retain some control of who could access the property.

Woodlands County Council members recently discussed transferring riverfront land in Fort Assiniboine to a campground operator looking to expand operations. Council went back and forth as they discussed the pros and cons.



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continued from page 2

from Administration. I would like to retain the area. That portion of land could then be wrapped into a Rec Master Plan for use as determined in the future. If we give it away, we cannot plan to do anything.” Councillor Prestidge agreed. “They don’t make new riverfront property anymore. The County has this, and I feel that we should keep it for future recreation use for the citizens of Fort Assiniboine and (the) area.”

Councillor Wilhelm said he understood his colleagues’ concerns. “Not being a resident of Fort Assiniboine, I’m taking a 30,000 look view at the situation, but this is a small business in that community that draws other people to that community which brings new money into that community every summer. One

of the best ways to develop economies within our region is to help those existing businesses expand. I understand this land is probably very valuable, and it being riverfront is excellent, but that means it’s also excellent for this business to expand with.”

Wilhelm said that doubling the number of people camping in the region would double the money brought in. “We want to hold on to this piece of land, but we don’t even have money right now and have no plan to develop recreational areas anywhere in Woodlands County. In my opinion, we are just holding onto this asset for no reason when we could be bringing new money into Fort Assiniboine very quickly by allowing this person to develop it. There are hundreds of areas of riverfront access that Woodlands County could de-

velop, I’m sure. Why is this one so special?”

Councillor Kusch echoed his colleague, adding that the topic has him torn. “I do understand a lot of the residents don’t sound like they want the expanse of the campsite. Some of the residents asked why we don’t, as a County, develop a campsite there, but we can’t afford to build it, we can’t afford to maintain it, and we can’t afford properly operate it.” He said he didn’t want to hinder business and private enterprise. Kusch also added that expanding the campsite helps the County’s plan for tourism and bringing people in to use what the County has. “But, we also have a lot of pushback from people in the community. It’s a really hard decision to get on top of.”

continued on page 11

WHITECOURT FREE CLEAN UP WEEK MAY 9-13

To assist you with your spring cleaning, the Town of Whitecourt will be offering free disposal at the Whitecourt Regional Landfill from May 9-13, 2023.

Excludes industrial and commercial customers.

FREE Clean Up Week is offered to Whitecourt residents only.

DROP OFF DAY PREP



Whitecourt residents will be required to show their Landfill Access Tag to receive free disposal. Two pieces of identification showing your **Whitecourt** street address will also be accepted (i.e. driver’s licence, tax notice, utility bill, etc.).

All items must be sorted, and bagged or bundled for disposal.

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

Meetings held at the Family Worship Center upstairs.

ZOOM ID: 818 413 483 PASSWORD: gratitude



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wctcancerwellness@gmail.com

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

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)

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

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Enhanced programming incoming for six community groups/organizations thanks to grant funding

By Serena Lapointe

Six recent applicants to the Town of Whitecourt's 2023 Enhancement Grant Program are getting some good news. The yearly grant offered by the Town is meant to help organizations and community groups that offer recreation, culture, and arts programming by providing financial support to enhance what they offer, whether it's programs, services, special events, specialized facilities or pieces of equipment that are not funded through their annual budgeting process.

The funding aims to enhance the lives of residents in Whitecourt and area by enabling groups they are part of to improve their programming or services. For small-community-based groups and organizations, additional, non-budgeted financial support can prove life-changing for their volunteers and patrons. Rather than just dreaming of upgrading, funding can help a dream come true.

The financial support

also encourages residents to volunteer in local groups because it allows them to access more. A group wanting to purchase equipment or a new club wanting to start from scratch can apply for funding, providing the program, event, or equipment is not eligible for funding from other municipal/provincial/federal sources.

During the April 24 Regular Meeting of Whitecourt Town Council, Dave Arcand, Vice Chair of the Community Services Advisory Board and Kelly Sadoway, Recreation Manager for the Town of Whitecourt, presented the board's recommendations for approval. "This year, we had seven applicants. We were able to approve six of them. One of them did not fall under the guidelines, so that was taken out," said Arcand.

"The good news is that there are a lot of new names that we have seen this year compared to previous years. That's always encouraging when

we see new organizations put their name forward instead of the same organizations coming to the same pot," explained Arcand. He thanked Administration for their help in the process. "It's always a big project, and the board does thank them for it."

Councillor Schlosser asked about the Woodchuckers Whitecourt Cornhole League, one of the six applicants on the docket. He wondered what the interest was in it locally and asked Administration and the presenters if they knew how many members they had or were expecting. Sadoway said she wasn't sure offhand but guessed it was around 20-25 members. "It's actually a big trend right now." Mayor Pickard called the corn hall league "something new," and Councillor McAree called it "the new pickleball."

The 2023 budget included \$30,000 for the Enhancement Grant program. The Community Services Advisory Board reviewed and scored each application based on their

criteria. Once completed, the board passed along their recommendations to Council for allotting the \$30,000 between the approved applications.

The six successful applicants were the Whitecourt Potters' Guild for wheel and slab roller upgrades (\$6,826.71), the Woodchuckers Whitecourt Cornhole League for start-up costs (\$3,796.65), the Whitecourt Indigenous Friends Society for National Truth & Reconciliation Day (\$5,999.92), Whitecourt Minor Ball, for a pitching mound, announcer booth floor and ramp (\$5,752.50), the Whitecourt Baptist Church, for The Joe Show (\$3,539.95), and the Whitecourt Woodlands Hawks Foundation for Essentials to Self-Sufficiency (\$4,084.27). Each group was recommended to receive at least 50 percent of their initial ask.

Councillor Tara Baker asked about the group that didn't receive funding. The Whitecourt Golf & Country Club had applied

to install a lift station primary pump but was not approved. "In the previous years, we have helped the golf course purchase machinery in the form of a gator, and I believe last year was driving range mats, and these are both enhancements. But this one is a lift system for their water which is an operational expense," explained Arcand.

Councillor Baker asked if not receiving the amount they asked for would cause a group to be unable to proceed with their plans. "Would any of these not come to fruition if they didn't receive the full amount requested? Has anyone said that they wouldn't be able to do anything? Say, if a group asks for \$10,000 and they receive, hypothetically, five thousand, can they still complete their programming?"

Arcand said the board hadn't received any feedback on that specifically. "We have not received any type of feedback as to not fulfilling a program or

a service." Sadoway added that most groups have other means of bringing in funding support. "I think a lot of them have alternate sources of funding. They can fundraise on their own, or they have other ideas of ways that they can fundraise for the remainder in general. None of them said this was a do-or-die kind of thing."

Arcand added that the grant is meant to be a support, not a primary source. "It's always said in our conversations that we hope that this helps them but that they can't rely a hundred percent of their funding on these types of grants because you never know year to year how many are going to apply and how much is going to be offered, those types of things."

Council McAree motioned to approve the \$30,000 as the Community Services Advisory Board indicated, providing funding to the six successful applicants. The vote following the motion was unanimous.



Dancers from Whitecourt's Illusion Dance Co. celebrated the end of the season on Friday afternoon at Festival Park with their Windup Party. A large crowd of athletes and their families brought chairs to sit near the playground's pavilion to enjoy snacks and cake. Dancers had fun practicing various skills they've achieved, spreading out on the soccer pitch area nearby. They showed off how far they've come and how hard they've worked this year. Around 100 people, roughly one-third of this year's Illusion Dance season, participated in the celebration. The 2022/2023 season was highly successful for the studio, with dancers participating in three out-of-town festivals and reaching numerous milestones.

PUBLIC NOTICE

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VITALIZATION GRANT PROGRAM

The Vitalization Grant Program offers businesses located in the downtown core and along the Highway 43 corridor up to \$10,000 to enhance the exterior facade of their business or property to meet the Town's architectural theme of stone and wood. The stone and wood theme has been incorporated in Land Use Bylaw 1506 and is now an integral part of renovations. This grant helps us to build a vibrant and beautiful community for both residents and visitors alike.

Information and application forms can be obtained from www.whitecourt.ca.

Applications will be accepted until **4:30 PM on Wednesday, May 17, 2023**, at the following location:

Town of Whitecourt - Planning & Development Department
 Re: Vitalization Grant Program
 5004 52nd Avenue, Box 509, Whitecourt, AB T7S 1N6
 Ph: 780-778-2273 Fax: 780-778-2062 planning@whitecourt.ca

EQUIPMENT AUCTION

The following pieces of equipment will be auctioned in May on the www.govdeals.com website:

- 2015 Asphalt Hotbox/Reclaimer/Recycle – Keizer Morris
- 2007 Tree Spade – Baumalight
- 1990 Champion 500 Series Tractor Attachment – Ice Resurfacers

Auction Opens: May 1, 2023 **Auction Closes:** May 11, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.

For further details on this opportunity, visit our website www.whitecourt.ca.

NOTICE OF DECISIONS

The following decisions were made by the Municipal Planning Commission:

- Application 23-033: 46 Ravine Drive – Secondary Suite – Approved with conditions
- Application 23-021: 5419 45 Street – Home Occupation – Massage/Osteopath Office – Approved with conditions

Date of Decision: April 27, 2023 **Appeal Closes at 4:00pm:** May 19, 2023

The following decision was made by the Development Authority:

- Application 23-042: 31 Chaisson Crossing, Lot 8, Block 15, Plan 772 2180 – Administrative Variance Lot Coverage (41%) – Approved with conditions

Date of Decision: April 26, 2023 **Appeal Closes at 4:00pm:** May 17, 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.

RCMP ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

Whitecourt RCMP locate loaded handgun during arrest

On April 26, 2023, Whitecourt RCMP were dispatched to an assault. Upon arrival the male suspect fled on foot and after a foot pursuit was caught and arrested. During the search incidental to his arrest, police located a loaded 9mm semi-automatic handgun in the suspects belongings.

Corey Elly White (43) a resident of Whitecourt was charged with:

- Weapons offences (x9)
- Resist arrest
- Assault

White was taken before a justice of the

peace and remanded into custody with his next court date set for May 3, 2023, at the Whitecourt Court of Justice.



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 INFORMATION SESSION
JUNE 27
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PUBLIC NOTICE

ANC Timber Ltd. 2023 HERBICIDE APPLICATION PROJECT

Please be advised that ANC Timber Ltd. is looking for input on their upcoming herbicide application program for 2023. ANC Timber Ltd. will be conducting both aerial and ground herbicide application programs between August 6th and September 20th, 2023. The application will treat approximately 1500 hectares of existing cutover area. The applications will be in portions of:

Township	Ranges	Meridian
48	12, 13, 14, 15	W5M
49	12, 13, 14, 15	W5M
50	13, 14	W5M
58	18, 19, 20, 21, 25	W5M
59	17, 18, 23, 24	W5M
60	17, 23, 24	W5M
61	22	W5M
62	22	W5M

Both the aerial and ground herbicide applications will be done using VisionMax[®] silviculture herbicide. The purpose of the applications is to control grass and shrub species that are limiting the survival chances of our planted seedlings on recent harvested areas. Access to all areas will be posted with signs upon completion and all applications will be done in accordance with Alberta Agriculture and Forestry regulations and the Environmental Code of Practice for Pesticides.

For more information, please contact an ANC Timber Ltd. representative at (780) 778-7017 or visit ANC's 2023 Virtual Open House at <http://www.albertanewsprint.com/woodlands/>.

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NOTICE OF DECISION

A decision has been made regarding the following development permit application:

DEVELOPMENT PERMIT APPLICATION	LOCATION	PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT	DECISION	DATE OF DECISION
15-012-23	PT NE 24-59-13-W5M	Dwelling: Manufactured Home and Accessory Building: shed	20-Apr-23	11-May-23
15-014-23	PT NE 19-59-12-W5M Lot 1 Plan 9720727	Accessory Building: garage	20-Apr-23	11-May-23
15-016-23	PT SW 5-59-10-W5M	Dwelling: replacement of second dwelling	24-Apr-23	15-May-23
15-017-23	PT NW 2-59-12-W5M Lot 1 Block 2 Plan 052-3902	Addition to existing dwelling	25-Apr-23	16-May-23

Any person affected by this decision may appeal to the Secretary of the Development Appeal Board by forwarding a written appeal along with a \$500.00 fee, to the address listed below, prior to **4:30 p.m. of the appeal date noted above.**

Information regarding this application may be obtained by inquiring at the address noted.

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

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 on **Wednesday, May 3, 2023 at 5:00 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 2, 2023** or you may attend the meeting to voice any comments.

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

LEGAL DESCRIPTION	DEVELOPMENT PERMIT APPLICATION NUMBER	PROPOSAL
PT. SW 24-58-12-W5M	15-013-2023	Garden Suite: change of occupancy

Information regarding this application may be obtained by inquiring prior to **4:30 pm, May 2, 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

JOHN BURROWS

Member
Councillor for Whitecourt West
Division 2
E-Mail: john.burrows@woodlands.ab.ca
Phone: 780-706-4747

BRUCE PRESTIDGE

Councillor for Blue Ridge
Division 5
E-Mail: bruce.prestidge@woodlands.ab.ca
Phone: 780-779-3917

DEVIN WILLIAMS

Councillor for Fort Assiniboine
Timber Division 7
E-Mail: devin.williams@woodlands.ab.ca
Phone: 780-305-1825

JEREMY WILHELM

Councillor for
Whitecourt East Division 4
E-Mail: jeremy.wilhelm@woodlands.ab.ca
Phone: 780.779.6204

DAVE KUSCH

Councillor for Assiniboine
Division 1
E-Mail: dave.kusch@woodlands.ab.ca
Phone: 780-778-5337

ALAN DEANE

Councillor for Whitecourt
Central Division 3
E-Mail: alan.deane@woodlands.ab.ca
Phone: 780-778-0694

PETER KUELKEN

Councillor for Goose Lake
Freeman River Division 6
E-Mail: peter.kuelken@woodlands.ab.ca
Phone: 780-294-2425

A park by any other name than Rotary is still just as a great



The watercraft rentals kiosk will be located near the pond, across the path from the volleyball courts.



Park signs, like the entrance since shown, will change over to the new name once signs arrive.

Rotary Park is now known by a new name. But, just as Shakespeare once said, a rose by any other name would smell as sweet. Rotary Park, by any other name, is still just as great of a place to be.

By Serena Lapointe

Significant changes are coming for Whitecourt's beloved attraction, Rotary Park. The most significant change comes in its name, which has officially changed to Festival Park. Rotary International required a name switch after changing its rules for logos and branding on property and sites not owned or controlled by a Rotary Club. The name had to change, given that the town owns the park and the club was a partner, not an owner.

The Rotary Club of Whitecourt has been an enormous part of the evolution of the famous space and played a role in picking the new moniker. Mayor Tom Pickard said in a release that the Whitecourt Rotary Club is a valued partner and will be recognized as a park supporter. "We appreciate the Rotary Club's involvement in determining the new name for the Park and feel it reflects what this park is in our community. It is Whitecourt's

most popular outdoor recreation destination and home to numerous outdoor festivals, gatherings, and celebrations."

During the April 24 Town Council meeting, Kelly Sadoway, Recreation Manager, detailed the rest of the changes coming to the park this summer. "At the concession, we will be operating Sisters Sweet Treats, which will offer a variety of hot food and ice cream which should be a welcome amenity down there." Zainoon Halabi, the owner of The Crown and Anchor and Brothers Diner restaurants, will be running it. Hot food expected includes tacos, burgers, and pizza by the slice. "We think this might help because many people like to cook down there. If there's food available, that might be a nice alternative," explained Sadoway.

Over by the playground, the Jumbo Jumper will make its grand entrance soon. "You hit the button, and it inflates, and kids can jump on it, and it's

going to be popular. I kind of want to get there before the kids do," chuckled Sadoway. Councillor Paul Chauvet, who had initially started the conversation about getting the massive inflatable, joked back, "Get in line."

Another new piece to add to the fun down at Festival Park is a rental opportunity for residents and visitors to make use of the pond. Swimming is prohibited, and signs around it say as much. However, there are safer ways to use the pond. Lakeside Rentals will set up a self-dispensing kayak and paddleboard shelter to allow a safe opportunity to use the park's mini lake.

"It's unmanned. So, you walk up, remote login, sign a waiver, and then it will give you a code to unlock your equipment and your safety stuff that goes with it. You then use it and return it, and it knows when you've returned it," explained Sadoway. The web-based system will require renters to go to the website, book and pay for

their equipment.

Sadoway said there would be roughly twelve rentals within the kiosk. "We were talking about the distribution between stand-up paddleboards and kayaks and whether it be where you put your feet in or on top of the kayaks. We were thinking more of the on-top kayaks." She said there might be more kayaks than paddleboards but would have to wait and see.

Councillor Tara Baker asked how it would work for residents to decipher the difference between no swimming and being allowed on a paddleboard with a life jacket. CAO Peter Smyl explained that using a device to enjoy the water, like a paddleboard, kayak or canoe, providing they are using the proper gear and have signed the waiver, is different. "Swimming is not permitted. Our insurance has looked at it and has agreed with the liability and the insurance and the process. It's a fairly new process but again, no swimming. It's just a device to be

on the water, and if you happen to fall off of the paddleboard, just like if you tip over a canoe, it's the same scenario." When wearing a life jacket, the user would get out of the water and back onto their device again.

Councillor Paul Chauvet asked if there would be enforcement for people to wear life jackets. He said it felt like a small line between being on the board and deciding to go for a swim. "It is a device, and you're signing a waiver. We currently allow them, and we actually do have paddle boards and canoes in the pond," explained Smyl. On any given night through the summer, numerous residents utilize the pond with their devices. Smyl added that many other water bodies and provincial parks are switching to these types of kiosk rentals.

A comparable option is tubing on the McLeod River. Both Whitecourt and Woodlands County encourage residents and visitors to go for a float

down the river, and there are stairs and parking lots provided to use. But it is at the risk of each person who sits on a floatie. Wearing life jackets is encouraged as an extra level of safety, as is the recommendation of wearing water shoes and not drinking alcohol. The river is there to enjoy and use safely, just like the pond at Festival Park.

Users of the water devices at the pond will need to use their credit card and be of a certain age to rent one, just like the rentable scooters seen in the city. "It's not a device to go swimming. It's a device to go on the pond and then put it back when you're done," concluded Smyl. Whitecourt Town Council voted on accepting the park rebranding and enhancements as information. The motion passed but was not unanimous. The new logo for Festival Park will be shared sometime this month, and new signs will be put up throughout the summer as they arrive.

Whitecourt Town Council updates

Whitecourt Town Council passed Tax Rate Bylaw 1571 at the April 24, 2023 Regular Meeting, and property owners can expect to receive combined assessment and taxation notices in May. The 2023

Budget includes a 4.64% increase to the municipal tax rate. For the average single family home, this equates to an \$8 increase in taxes per month. For details on how property taxes are calculated, and

how tax dollars have been allocated in the 2023 Budget, please read through the 2023 Budget Report. The report is available on the Whitecourt website at www.whitecourt.ca/yourtown. If you have questions about your tax notice or the 2023 Budget, please email administration@whitecourt.ca.

Town Council receive

an overview of 2023 assessment figures by the municipal assessor at the April 24 Council Meeting.

- The valuation date for 2023 taxation of properties is July 1, 2022.
- Assessment values for single family homes have decreased by 0.2%. The average house value in Whitecourt is \$327,700.

- Property owners can view the assessment report for their property online. Visit the Whitecourt website at www.whitecourt.ca/live/taxes-payments/taxes-payments under the section titled "Assessment Reports" and follow the link and instructions to view assessment reports.

- Property owners will receive a combined assessment and tax notice in May.

Whitecourt approved the 2022 Financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 2022. A presentation was made by the Town's auditor, Curtis Friesen from Metrix

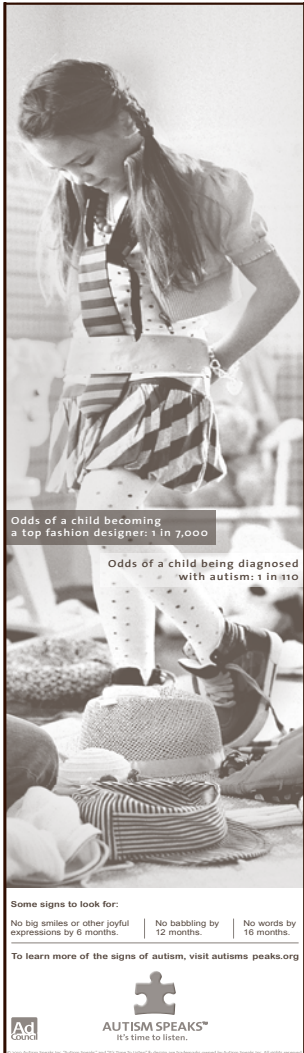
continued on page 9



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No big smiles or other joyful expressions by 6 months. No babbling by 12 months. No words by 18 months.
To learn more of the signs of autism, visit autismspeaks.org



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continued from page 8

Group, who reported that the consolidated financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the consolidated financial position of the Town of Whitecourt as of the end of 2022.

The Whitecourt Fire Department presented its 2022 Annual Fire Report and provided the following highlights:

- The Whitecourt Fire Department responded to 343 call in our region.
- Members logged 10,639 hours responding to incidents, attending meetings and training, completing work.

A flat rate for bulk water has been adopted by the Town of Whitecourt. All bulk water users will be charged \$8.89 per cubic metre.

The 2023 Street Im-

provement Program contract has been awarded to E-Construction Ltd. Work this year includes overlay and concrete work at the following locations:

- 55 Avenue and Dahl Drive/Mink Creek Road;
- 48 Street, from 56 Avenue to 57 Avenue;
- Nylan Crescent Cul de Sac;
- 56 Avenue, from 47A Street to 48 Street;
- 51 Avenue, from 47 Street to 48 Street;
- 38 Avenue & Kepler Street Intersection;
- Various locations to repair roadway resulting from water main breaks, underground service repairs and other utility cuts.

Whitecourt Town Council has awarded \$30,000 in funding under the 2023 Enhancement Grant Program. Recipients include:

- Whitecourt Potters' Guild - \$6,826.71 for wheel and slab roller upgrades;
- The Woodchuckers - Whitecourt Cornhole League - \$3,796.65 for league start up;
- Whitecourt Indigenous Friends Society - \$5,999.92 for National Truth & Reconciliation Day;
- Whitecourt Minor Ball - \$5,752.50 for pitching mound, announcer booth floor, and ramp;
- Whitecourt Baptist Church - \$3,539.95 for The Joe Show;
- Whitecourt Woodlands Hawks Foundation - \$4,084.27 for Essentials to Self-Sufficiency.

The Allan & Jean Millar Centre will offer the following community health events in the month of May, supported by local Alberta Health Services

Health Promoters:

- The MAN VAN: May 3 from 11am to 3pm - Offers free baseline Prostate Specific Antigen blood testing for men ages 40-80; as well as blood sugar, blood pressure, mental wellness checks and waist circumference measurements for all men over the age of 18 years.
- The SHRed Mobile: May 31 - The Surveillance in High School and Community Sport to Reduce Concussions and Consequences of Concussions in Canadian Youth (SHRed) will be hosting an evening open house in the foyer at the Allan & Jean Millar Centre. The mobile unit houses equipment to facilitate concussion and injury prevention education.

The Press

A locally owned and family operated newspaper serving Whitecourt

PUBLISHED EVERY TUESDAY

Contact

Valerie Winger at 780-706-1858

Email: wctpress@telus.net

Find us on: & &



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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Money Matters

One Canadian Dollar = 0.73 US Dollar at an exchange rate of 0.7367 (using nominal rate).



Dollar Values as of May 2, 2023

A look at the local weather

	Tue., May 2	Wed., May 3	Thu., May 4	Fri., May 5	Sat., May 6
P.O.P.	Chance of a shower 10%	Cloudy with sunny breaks 40%	Chance of a shower 40%	Mix of sun and clouds 30%	Mix of sun and clouds 30%
High	25°C	22°C	22°C	21°C	17°C
Low	9°C	8°C	8°C	6°C	5°C
Wind	NW 9 km/h	NW 15 km/h	W 15 km/h	E 19 km/h	E 13 km/h
24-Hr Rain / Snow	<1mm	~1mm	~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

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- **Job#: 23-020**, Custodian, Casual Position.
- **Job# 23-024**, Whitecourt Transit Drivers, Casual Positions

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



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Whitecourt, AB

4216 Elko Drive
Whitecourt, AB



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.

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continued from page 3

Councillor Kuelken said he was looking at it from a different perspective. He said though the current owner would allow public access, future owners might not. "We should look at this as an opportunity to develop, if the community so wishes to look at it, alongside the owner where we still have something to say about who has access to that property."

Councillor Deane said his driving reason for not being for it was that Council hadn't looked through the possibilities on the land and that nothing was within their strategic planning documents. "Until we have a plan for the area and until we know what that land might be utilized for, don't give it up. If through a review of the master plan, (we) determine that the best use of that property is to partner, then we can cross that bridge when we come to it. To just give it away because there is a good opportunity, then it takes

that option away from the County and the residents in the future to do something specific that would be public only."

Reeve Burrows said with the County in recovery mode, he would like to see more done on planning. "We have to look to the future. What is our Master Rec Plan going to look like? What are we going to do with these facilities? How is that whole area going to look? In a year or two, or three, we might revisit that option to let it go after we've had a chance to really look through this from a planning perspective, but at this point, I wouldn't support a motion to let it go."

Councillor Williams said he'd had many conversations on the topic and agreed with Reeve Burrows and Councillor Deane. "Without an actual plan that we develop, it would be really not that smart to give it up." He then made the motion to deny the request, retaining the land. The vote passed 5-2. Councillors Wilhelm and Kusch were the opposing votes.



Maggie and her spotted pup Ruby were out enjoying the sunshine early evening on Friday. Nineteen degrees of spring goodness on the thermostat had lots of people outside. This cute duo had just finished walking around the pond at Festival Park when they paused to strike and pose, resulting in this adorable picture.



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

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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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