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COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER



*The Press*

Locally Owned & Operated

Vol. 13 - Issue 20 | Wednesday, May 15, 2024



**Whitecourt  
joining  
World  
Hunger  
Day with a  
free BBQ**

World Hunger Day is coming up later this month, and the Whitecourt Food Bank is inviting the community to a free barbecue, thanks to generous community sponsorship. Whitecourt Food Bank Coordinator Tara Bartsch (left). See story page 2.



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# Whitecourt joining World Hunger Day with a free BBQ

By Serena Lapointe

Whitecourt Food Bank Coordinator Tara Bartsch is kickstarting a new annual event. Organizations worldwide have participated in World Hunger Day since its inception in 2011. The United Kingdom was the first to hold the event, which has grown exponentially. Whitecourt wasn't involved until this year.

"I got an email about World Hunger Day, which is on May 28, and I thought that it was really cool. I wondered, what could Whitecourt do?" Bartsch said she called Eris Moncur at Eagle River Casino to float the idea. "He wants to help the community as much as he can and is always doing things and supporting things. I asked if he would like to do a barbecue with us, and he said yes," she explained.

Bartsch then connected with Pembina Pipelines, another hugely supportive community business, and they jumped on board, too. "Pembina Pipeline is bringing in a whole bunch of volunteers and their big barbeque and they are supplying all the juice and water, all free of charge. Eagle River Casino is donating 200 hamburgers, 150 hot dogs, 100 smokies, plus all the buns and condiments. Plus, whatever we don't use, they are making it so we can repackage it and give it to our clients, all free. It's awesome! They are both so generous."

On May 25, from 11 am until 3 pm, at the Carlan Centre, 76 Sunset Boulevard, in the same parking lot as JDA Place, there will be a free barbecue for the community. "We are

hoping to feed lots of people," said Bartsch. "We want to give back to the community for being so generous to us."

Bartsch said that if people want to bring a food bank donation, they absolutely can, but it isn't a requirement. "It's totally free to come eat," she said. Once people have had some grub, the doors to the food bank will be open, allowing them to see what things look like inside. "We are going to let people come in and take a tour. We want everyone to see what we do here and what it's all about. We want people to see that it isn't a scary place and that no one should ever be ashamed to come here. We just want to help, and that's why we are here."

She said that for those who have donat-

ed, it's also a way to see where their donations go and what the set-up looks like. "We help over 250 families a month. I don't think people fully understand what we do here or the limited space we have to work within. We also have limited food and are constantly working at refilling our shelves or rebuilding stock through donations."

Bartsch said it'll also be nice for the staff to meet community members. "Most of our people here are volunteers. We only have two paid staff. Everyone else is a volunteer who believes in the cause to ensure our community works as best as possible."

She said it would also be an excellent chance for kids to learn about the food bank. Bartsch added that not everyone knows where the food bank is, and this event

can help change that. "We hope everyone will become acquainted with the food bank and its location."

Bartsch thanks the community support for making the event possible and hopes to see it grow in the coming years. "Both of these companies, Eagle River Casino and Pembina Pipeline are huge supporters of Whitecourt. We couldn't do this without them. It's pretty amazing to have someone like Eris from Eagle River Casino in the community and businesses like Pembina or Matt from Whitecourt Transport; whatever you need, they help. They are one of the reasons why Whitecourt is such an amazing community; they are always giving back."

Those wanting to bring some donations along with them are

encouraged to bring shelf-stable foods because they last the longest. Ideas include macaroni and cheese, Hamburger Helper, canned meat, beans, or any shelf-stable protein. Another big item that people might not think about donating is toiletries.

"We are always either low on or completely out of toiletries, especially things like razors, shampoo and conditioner, deodorant. Those things are quite expensive, so if you don't have money for food, will you buy toiletries? No, you won't. We also do laundry soap because you need to be able to wash your clothes to get a job or go to work and for your kids to go to school. Those are things we try to have on hand because

continued on page 3



Part of the food bank storage area.

## PRIME INDUSTRIAL LAND FOR SALE:

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continued from page 2

they are so important," explained Bartsch.

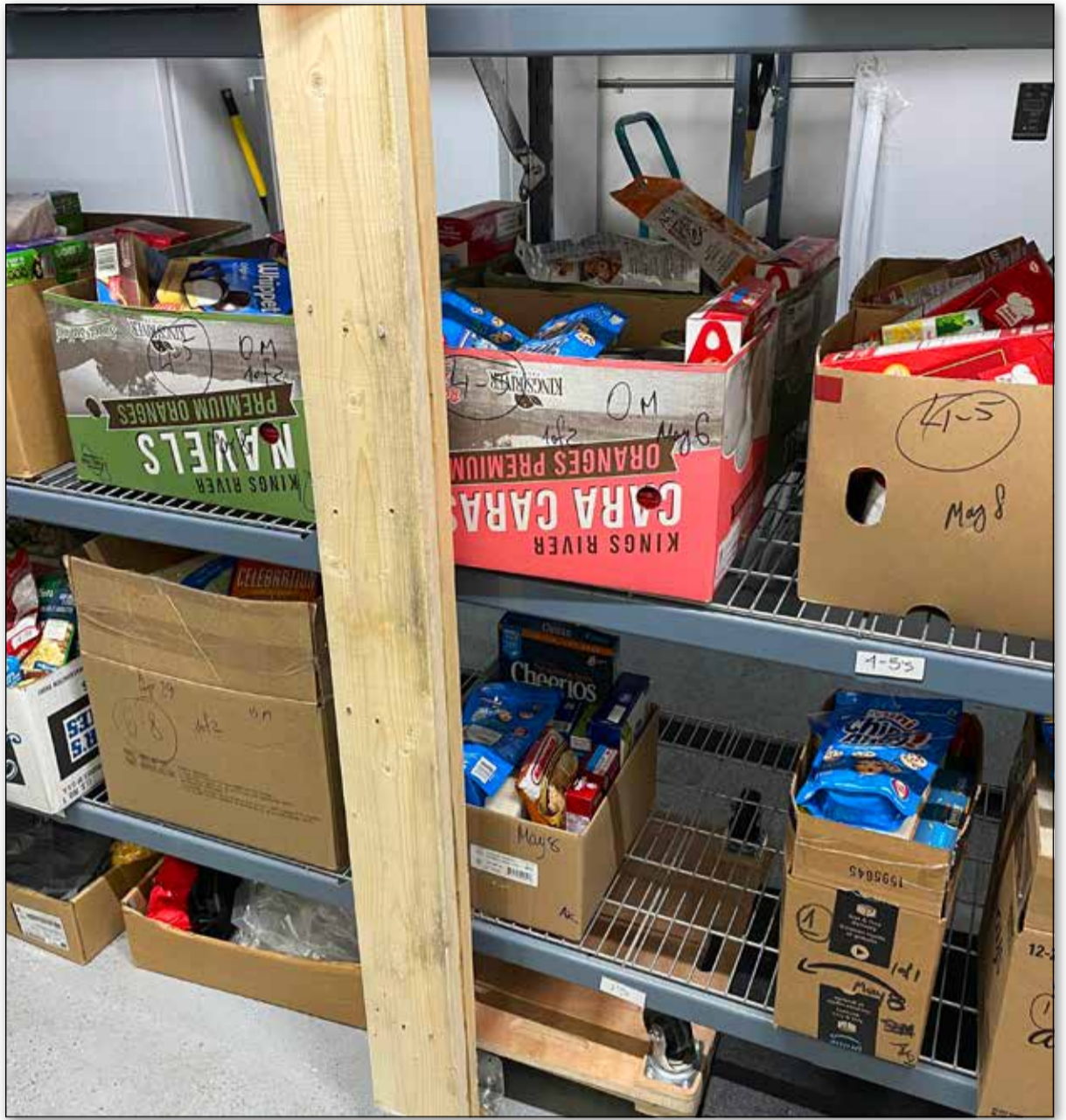
This year's theme for World Hunger Day is sustainability and reducing waste. "Over 800 million people go hungry daily, and one-third of all food is wasted. That is not sustainable," she said. To help reduce waste at the food bank, Bartsch said she works with local farmers to provide them with unusable perishable foods for their animals rather than throwing them away.

"World Hunger Day is a reminder that hunger is not only a problem of scarcity but of inequality and non-sustainable systems. Low-income families are not the only ones using the food bank. We also see double-income families. Bills are expensive. Rent is crazy expensive, and food is a necessity. People are paying their bills so that they have a roof over their heads, but where does their food come from?"

She said introducing

sustainable choices in the home can help reduce waste and save money. "Food planning is a big thing; it doesn't waste food. If you know what you're eating tomorrow, you're only going to buy those things. That's what we do in our household. We always plan our meals, and Sunday is our cooking and packing day to get ready for the week," explained Bartsch. She said gardening is another great idea, even if it's pots on a windowsill.

Whether users of the food bank or not, Bartsch invites everyone to come have lunch on May 25. "Come meet the people who volunteer their time here. They are hardworking individuals who are absolutely amazing. That's how I started. I worked with Lori, and she was incredible. We can always use more help." The barbecue will be on Saturday, May 25, from 11 am to 3 pm at the food bank, which is located in the Carlan Center beside JDA Place.



Non-perishable foods.

# ATTENTION LAND DEVELOPERS!

CALL 780-779-8002

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# ATTENTION LAND DEVELOPERS!

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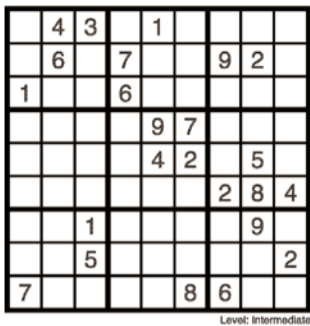
2.24 Acres - Land downtown Whitecourt, situated between Microtel Hotel and Holiday Inn, Zoned C1/C2 Downtown Commercial & Service Commercial.

This is a fully serviced lot - ready to be built on.



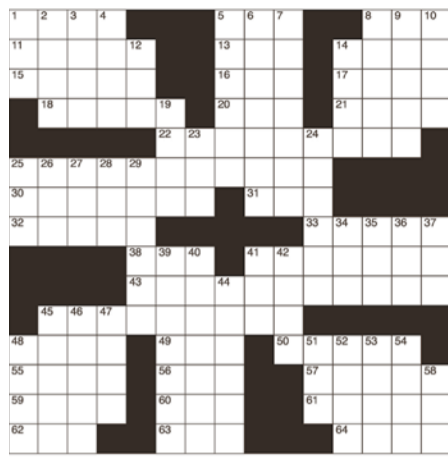
SEE SOLUTIONS PAGE 15

# SUDOKU CROSSWORDS



**Fun By The Numbers**

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!



**Here's How It Works:**

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

## Crossword Clues

**CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. Lions do it
- 5. In favor of
- 8. Rest here please (abbr.)
- 11. Pulpits
- 13. Leisure activity
- 14. Fertility god
- 15. Financial obligations
- 16. When you anticipate getting somewhere
- 17. Spanish river
- 18. Sporting events
- 20. Type of tree
- 21. Ceased to be
- 22. Persons
- 25. Synthetic resin
- 30. Relates to photochemical reactions
- 31. Father
- 32. Former Cowboys coach
- 33. City in Finland
- 38. Run batted in
- 41. Got through
- 43. They darken skin
- 45. In a harmful way
- 48. Form of weaving
- 49. City of Angels hoopster
- 50. Caucasian language

- 55. Syngman \_\_, Korean president
- 56. Sun up in New York
- 57. Paddled
- 59. Fishes
- 60. Affirmative
- 61. Nimble
- 62. Doctor of Education
- 63. Soviet Socialist Republic
- 64. A small island

**CLUES DOWN**

- 1. Cool!
- 2. Hebrew unit of measure
- 3. Swedish rock group
- 4. College army
- 5. Favor over another
- 6. Called it a career
- 7. Egg-shaped wind instrument
- 8. Israeli statesman
- 9. Hurries
- 10. Slog
- 12. Midway between south and southeast
- 14. Benedictine monk
- 19. Self-immolation by fire ritual
- 23. Family of regulator

- genes
- 24. Surrendering
- 25. Political action committee
- 26. S. American plant
- 27. Long-term memory
- 28. Bark
- 29. Breathes in
- 34. Take hold of
- 35. Everyone has one
- 36. Valentine's Day color
- 37. Drivers' licenses and passports
- 39. Outer walls of castles
- 40. Enters with force
- 41. One thousandth of an inch
- 42. Deceased Chinese politician
- 44. Sugary secretion of plants
- 45. Expressed pleasure
- 46. Shelter
- 47. Utilizes
- 48. Forest resident
- 51. Fashion accessory
- 52. A sharply directional antenna
- 53. \_\_ Kristofferson, actor
- 54. A bad place to end up
- 58. MLBer Gordon

## MEDITATION WORD SEARCH

E E U K T M Z Y S M S I H D D U B M D I  
 T S E R Q S D G O P M R E I K Q Y F N A  
 C P L A T N E M P T G A W U H I O P R H  
 K N Q A M R A H D H H L R N I R V A N A  
 Y I V T I L E I U Q L A R T H O P E N N R  
 G E V I T A E I R C L E Y Z N S H V R Z K  
 R W T A I Y Z H P V R M R E S A Z E R A  
 E A G E N L I G H T E N M E N T N W G H  
 N W B R W Q V I S U A L I Z A T I O N C  
 E Y S Q L H Q V W Y Z L Z D Z K Z F I A  
 C A R T N A M D K N C P S K F I B V D D  
 W I C H S H S G Z N O M U Q A Y D W N M  
 T N A H C U S T O U B O D H I T P M U S  
 O M D Y O A D E D D T I R K S N A S O I  
 K S P G R N S S E N L U F D N I M S R U  
 C R A W A R E N E S S I H W P N G R G D  
 M E D I T A T I O N Z P N Z V H N Z T N  
 C V S I E V N V A M R A K P I O E Q C I  
 Y G Q M P S K P E A C E F U L M B V D H  
 V R G Y M C W D B F B T Z H W D P M E O

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

**WORDS**

- ASHRAM
- AWARENESS
- BODHI
- BUDDHISM
- CHAKRA
- CHANT
- CREATIVE
- DHARMA
- ENERGY
- ENLIGHTENMENT
- GROUNDING
- HINDUISM
- KARMA
- MANTRA
- MEDITATION
- MENTAL
- MINDFULNESS
- NIRVANA
- PEACEFUL
- REST
- SANSKRIT
- TRANQUILITY
- VISUALIZATION
- ZEN

# Chamber Trade Fair



Kids having fun on one of two bouncy castles.



Face painting at the Stardust Designs booth.



Whitecourt Air Cadets tying knots.

The Whitecourt & District Chamber of Commerce held its annual trade show on the weekend. Sixty-four local and visiting businesses and organizations participated, making for a busy JDA Place. Heavy smoke from provincial forest fires was an unwelcome guest, but it didn't stop people from coming out to see the show. One of the setups outside was the Whitecourt Fire Department, which had visitors put out a controlled fire with a fire extinguisher, learning how to properly use it in the process. Once the show closed on Saturday, the action moved outside as Dahlia and the Villains put on a show from the Whitecourt Transport stage in the parking lot near the curling rink. Day two started with a complimentary Mother's Day pancake breakfast followed by more mingling as residents and visitors alike checked out the booths, put their names into draws and grabbed some cool swag.



**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](mailto:wctpress@telus.net) All submissions remain confidential



When you keep criticizing your kids, they don't stop loving you, they stop loving themselves.  
Let that sink in.




**Are you or someone you know being bullied?**  
**Call the Bullying Helpline (Confidential)**



**Toll Free, open 24 hours per day, seven days per week**  
**1-888-456-2323**  
**Stand up! Don't be afraid of bullies!!**

**Putting a face on suicide**



**Rick & Jason Grubbs**  
Age 28, 25

*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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A view from the River Valley Estates.



A family watching the lights from the box of their pickup.

## RCMP ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

### Whitecourt RCMP officially welcomes their new Detachment Commander

Whitecourt RCMP is happy to announce that Staff Sergeant Matthew Clarke has been chosen as the new Detachment Commander.

S/Sgt. Clarke is originally from Alberta, having lived in Calgary and Sylvan Lake, Alta., before joining the RCMP. S/Sgt. Clarke is in his 20th year of policing and all his service has been within "K" Division (Alberta). His previous postings include Peace River, Whitecourt and several units within the Edmonton Serious Crimes Branch including Edmonton General Investigation Section,

Historical Homicide and Behavioural Sciences. S/Sgt. Clarke returned to Whitecourt in 2021 as the Sergeant in Charge of Operations and has been the Acting Detachment Commander since October 2023.

"I am very pleased and excited to have been chosen as the Detachment Commander in Whitecourt and to lead a motivated and dedicated team of regular members and support staff" said S/Sgt. Matthew Clarke. "I look forward to continuing to build positive relationships with the community and focus on supporting our local policing priorities of Crime Prevention, Community Engagement and Traffic Safety."

## WANTED

**GOLD** Unused or unwanted chains, rings, jewelry, coins, bars.



Pre-1968 silver coins, rolls, bags or boxes, Royal Can.

**SILVER** Mint sets, silver bars.

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Lana Banack

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Celebrate the Life of  
**Lana Banack.**

Which will take place,  
**June 8, 2024, 2 - 5pm.**

It will be held at the  
Royal Canadian Legion  
Branch 44, 4928 - 51 ave,  
Whitecourt, AB



Whitecourt and area residents joined millions of Canadians, and millions more around the globe, in experiencing a rare explosion of the Aurora Borealis on Thursday night and early Friday morning. These images were taken from the Graham Acres parking lot between 12:25 and 12:35 am on Friday. The colours bounced from vibrant greens to red, pink and purple hues, making for an incredible show. Due to a powerful geomagnetic storm, the activity was ranked at five out of a one to five scale (G5-extreme) and the sky indeed showed it. The last time levels of this kind were recorded was in October 2003. The G5 rating can bring with it power outages because it affects voltage and can cause the northern lights to be seen as far south as Florida and Texas, which is rare indeed.

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## Soaring Eagle Support Society

Offering support services for marginalized individuals

- Outreach worker, laundry and shower facilities by appt
- Tax program & Bag Lunch Program

5027 - 51 Avenue, Open: Monday to Friday 10am - 4pm **780-396-8777**



## WHITECOURT GROUP OF NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS

All meetings are in person and online (hybrid)

- Mondays 7:00pm
- 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):

**Kim Nendsa** (President of Whitecourt Cancer & Wellness Society) **780-778-0932**  
**Aimee Grierson** **780-262-0222**

<https://wctcancerwellness.com/>

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



"Serving the community for over 30 years"  
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

## LORNE'S BLANKET

*is transitional housing for men.*

**We exist to help homeless men get back on their feet.**

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



24/7 CRISIS LINE  
780.778.6209  
1.800.467.4049



WELLSPRING FAMILY RESOURCE & CRISIS CENTRE



@whitecourt\_shelter

### 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



Family Resource & Crisis Centre

[www.whitecourtshester.ca](http://www.whitecourtshester.ca)



Support group on Tuesdays 6:30pm - 8:30 pm, starting February 20, 2024 at Crossroads Community Church, 4419 44 Ave, Mayerthorpe.

\$35 includes 12 weekly sessions.

**Pre-register by calling 780-786-2533.**

**Whitecourt Alcoholics Anonymous Group**



Meetings are three times each week

- Monday 8:00 pm - 9:00 pm
- Wednesday 8:00 pm - 9:00 pm
- Friday 8:00 pm - 9:00 pm

**New Women's AA Group on Saturdays @11 am**

Located at the United Church Basement 5201 - 50 St

Please Leave a Message for AA member (780)424-5900

or **Contact Addictions Helpline @1(866)332-2322**



# PUBLIC NOTICE

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



## GET INVOLVED....IT'S YOUR TOWN!

### Opportunity for Public Participation

The Town has various boards and committees that provide Town Council with perspective and recommendations regarding important civic issues. Whitecourt is a diverse, growing town, and citizens are in the best position to provide input on our changing community needs.

The **Subdivision and Development Appeal Board** currently has openings available for people to serve as part of a quasi-judicial board, to make decisions on appeals of subdivision or development decisions made by the Development Officer or Municipal Planning Commission. The Board meets on an as need basis, and the successful appointees will also attend a mandatory training session. The Board typically meets less than twice a year.

If you are interested in serving on this Board, please complete an application form which can be found on the Whitecourt website at [www.whitecourt.ca](http://www.whitecourt.ca) or picked up at the Town Office. Applications must be received before 12:00 noon, Wednesday, May 22, 2024 to:

Whitecourt Town Administration Office  
Attention: Executive Assistant  
5004 - 52 Avenue, Box 509  
WHITECOURT, AB T7S 1N6  
email: [administration@whitecourt.ca](mailto:administration@whitecourt.ca)

Contact the Executive Assistant at 780-778-2273 if you have questions about this Board and the application process.

Applications will be presented to Town Council.

## ENHANCED DRIVEWAY CROSSING REPLACEMENT PROGRAM

The Town of Whitecourt is continuing the Enhanced Driveway Crossing Replacement Program for those property owners wishing to upgrade their private driveway crossings. The Town will cost share with the owner up to 60% for the costs associated with the removal, disposal and replacement of the residential driveway crossing installed according to the "Minimum Standard for Local Improvements".

The program is intended for driveways in areas with high profile of older, rolled curb and gutter which create a harsh entrance into private driveways.

The program application for 2024 must be completed, signed and submitted with a minimum \$800.00 deposit prior to May 30, 2024 to be considered for replacement in the current calendar year.

Program information and an application form may be found on the Town's website at [www.whitecourt.ca](http://www.whitecourt.ca) or by contacting:

Town of Whitecourt, Box 509, 5004 – 52 Avenue, Whitecourt, AB T7S 1N6  
Email: [administration@whitecourt.ca](mailto:administration@whitecourt.ca) | Phone: 780.778.2273

## ONLINE VEHICLE AUCTION

Current opportunities are posted through Government Surplus Auctions (GovDeals) on behalf of the Town of Whitecourt:

- Swenson 2 Cubic Yard Pickup Mounted Sander

The online auction on the aforementioned units will run from May 7 – May 21, 2024 at 4:15pm. For more information, visit our website [www.whitecourt.ca](http://www.whitecourt.ca).

## WHITECOURT LAND USE BYLAW ANSWERS TO YOUR PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT QUESTIONS:

The Land Use Bylaw impacts everyone in Whitecourt – whether you are building or renovating a home, opening or relocating a business, or building a fence or deck. The Land Use Bylaw guides the permitting processes and regulates the use of land within our community.

### Not sure if you need a Permit?

As a property owner, you are responsible for making sure your property meets the requirements of the Land Use Bylaw, including having all of the correct permits. Contact one of our Development Officers for a FREE consultation on your proposed project.

### Fence Height

In Residential Districts, most fences can be constructed to a maximum height of 1.8m in rear and side yards, and up to 1.0m within front yards up to the property line. If your property is located on a corner lot or within a Commercial, Industrial, or Urban Services District, the maximum height of a fence is determined by the Development Authority. Contact one of our friendly Development Officers for more information.

### Accessory Buildings & Structures

Sheds and garages require a minimum setback of 2m from your house (including deck) and 1m from your side and rear yard property line. Permits are required for accessory buildings or structures over 10m<sup>2</sup> and for raised decks that are taller 0.6m.

### Businesses & Home Occupations

If you are opening a new business or home occupation, or relocating or changing the use of an existing business (i.e. from service to retail), you need to apply for a Development Permit to ensure your business is in compliance with the Land Use Bylaw. In some cases, a Building Permit and Safety Code inspection may also be required. Our Development Officers are on hand to assist you with your business permits.

### Driveways & Parking Pads

Most residential driveways can be up to 6 metres wide. In certain circumstances, some driveways can be 7.25m wide - your Development Officer can confirm the maximum width allowed. All driveways that connect to a town street must be hard surfaced.

Gravel, river rock, or paving stones placed adjacent to the driveway within the Town boulevard is prohibited. An RV parking pad located completely within a property may be allowed, but check with a Development Officer first to ensure it complies with the Land Use Bylaw.

If you have questions about the Land Use Bylaw or permits, please contact the Planning and Development Department at 780-778-2273 or visit [www.whitecourt.ca](http://www.whitecourt.ca).



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@gmail.com.



Money Matters

One Canadian Dollar = 0.73 US Dollar at an exchange rate of 0.7314 (using nominal rate).



Dollar Values as of May 15, 2024

PUBLIC NOTICE Whitecourt

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

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Current opportunities are posted on the Town's website and when required, opportunities are posted on purchasingconnection.ca. Currently, Whitecourt has the following opportunities:

- **Downtown Vitalization Phase 1 and 2 Update.** Closes: May 22, 2024 at 4:00 p.m. MST.
- **Off-Site Levy Bylaw Review.** Closes: May 24, 2024 at 4:00 p.m. MST.

For further details on any of these opportunities visit www.whitecourt.ca and search the project title.

The Press

A locally owned and family operated newspaper serving Whitecourt

PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY

Contact

Valerie Winger at 780-706-1858 Email: wctpress@telus.net



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Fire In Fire Out



Dark smoke rising above Highway 43 heading west.

Smoky conditions overlooking the Huestis area.



On Thursday afternoon, shortly after 3:00 pm, smoke was spotted rising northwest of Whitecourt, just beyond the ridge down Highway 32 North to Swan Hills in the Whitecourt Forest Area. The menacing dark plume of smoke, named WWF021 by Alberta Wildfire, seemed to grow quickly, thanks to hot temperatures and strong winds. Within moments of the new wildfire registering on the Alberta Wildfire Status Dashboard, activity in the skies could already be seen, with water bombers attacking it from the air as ground crews rushed to the site. Located on the Alexis Reserve, 9.1km from Whitecourt, 1.6km west of Hwy 32 and 4.4km north of Hwy 43, the fire was listed as 'under control' just over five hours later. Fire Departments from Blue Ridge and Whitecourt joined Alberta Wildfire and the Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation to get things under control fast. As of Friday, May 10, the fire was still listed as 'under control' at 2.5 hectares in size. The cause of the fire is under investigation.

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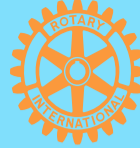
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# Rotary Club of Whitecourt



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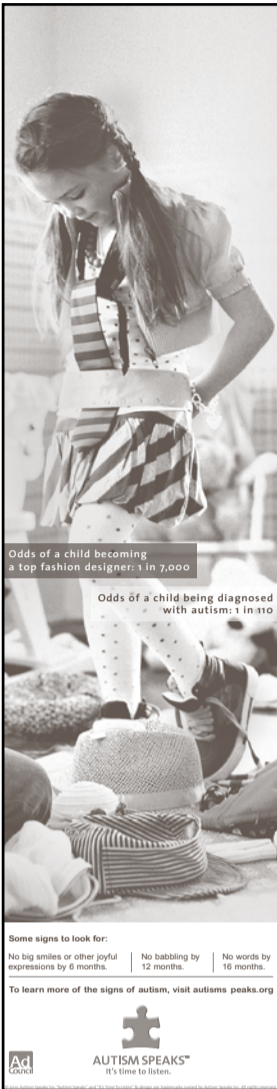




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Chance of a shower  
40%  
16°C  
5°C  
SW 18 km/h  
~1mm



**Thu., May 16**  
Mix of sun and clouds  
20%  
12°C  
2°C  
W 27 km/h



**Fri., May 17**  
Mix of sun and clouds  
30%  
14°C  
2°C  
NW 21 km/h



**Sat., May 18**  
Sunny  
10%  
14°C  
3°C  
N 14 km/h



**Sun., May 19**  
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10%  
16°C  
4°C  
SE 10 km/h





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# Lobsterfest was as delicious as it was impactful, thanks to a very generous community, raising tens of thousands



**Lobsterfest is a popular event for good reason! Not only are the lobsters flown in fresh from the East Coast and cooked up by maritime volunteers who know how to get everything just right, but the event also raises tens of thousands of dollars for worthy community-based causes.**

**By Serena Lapointe**

Lobsterfest has been a premier fundraising event in the community for over twenty years. Run exclusively by volunteers and immensely supported by the community, businesses and residents alike, the annual event raises tens of thousands of dollars that are then spent locally for the betterment of all.

In 1997, Whitecourt residents Brian and Terri Dixon attended a Lobsterfest event in Spruce Grove organized by that city's Rotary Club chapter. "The fundraiser did very well. They came back to town and said they

were going to charter a Rotary Club in Whitecourt," explained Whitecourt Lobsterfest chair Rotarian Nevis Prufer.

"To start a Rotary Club, you have to be chartered or recommended by another club, so the Spruce Grove Club ended up chartering Whitecourt, which means they helped and supported us through the first year of being a club. Then, a few years later, the Whitecourt Rotary Club did its first Lobsterfest." Prufer said everyone was nervous but that the event was successful, bringing in \$20,000 in year one.

Fast forward to 2024, and Lobsterfest has grown in popularity and support. The average amount fundraised during the event is around \$70,000. The highest year on record was \$102,000. "Every year we do it, we make more and more improvements and are more seasoned. We want it to be the premier event in Whitecourt. Top-notch," she said.

Holly Astill, Service Projects Coordinator for the Whitecourt club, said they are always overwhelmed by the community's generosity. "We show up with our Rotary outfits on, and people know

that the money they are going to donate is going to go back into the community because they can see it. They can see Festival Park. They can see the chalet at Eastlink Park. They can see all of the actual physical things that we support."

The Whitecourt Rotary Club creates a wish list of events it would like to hold or support each year and creates a budget of around \$70,000. Then, they fundraise for it. "Lobsterfest is our main fundraiser that supports everything we want to do," said Astill.

The Whitecourt Rotary Club holds

free swimming at the AJMC, free skating at JDA Place, and free range days at the golf course. It also offers scholarships, adventure programs, and camps like the Summer Unplugged Program and the Rotary Music Festival. They've also greatly supported Festival Park. "We've put over 1.2 million dollars back into the community," said Prufer.

All those things are thanks to the community's generosity for attending, volunteering, and donating. Lobsterfest requires over one thousand hours of volunteer time, including setting up, hosting the

event night, and taking everything down. These hours don't account for speaking with businesses and collecting donations, among other things.

"We are a service club. We are all volunteers and attached to Rotary International, so numerous international programs are in place. However, our club's major focus is always in our community, specifically families, children, seniors, and literacy. Those are our main topics of focus, and that's where the money goes." As volunteers, there are no

**continued on page 13**



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continued from page 12

administrative fees to eat away at fundraised dollars, meaning the club utilizes every cent raised.

If the club happens to raise more than what they need in their yearly budget, they do more things! "It's so rewarding, and it makes all the work worthwhile because then we know that we have made enough money to fund our budget and do all the projects. We have a huge wish list, and we can't do it without the support of businesses. I'm so proud to be a Rotary member and to say that we did this as volunteers, as a club, and through teamwork," said Prufer.

On Saturday, May 4, the delectable scent of lobster, cooked impeccably by a few hardworking East Coast chefs, wafted around St. Joseph's Catholic Church Hall as 320 guests awaited the highly anticipated feast. As maritime

lobsters began making their way out of the kitchen, the Rotarians watched as smiling attendees graciously received their plates.

"We have twenty-eight members," said Prufer of the Whitecourt club. "But we couldn't do this without our spouses, significant others, and those who show up and offer to help. I'm just amazed by the support we get from this community. They are amazing." Astill agreed. "Even though it's a huge amount of work, like Nevis mentioned, it's also fun. It's fellowship, and it's joining the community. It's amazing to see such a community event come together."

Both women had lots of "thank you's" to give out, from their fellow Rotarians to those who assembled things or helped decorate the hall, to those who worked on the technology to ensure the PowerPoint presentation worked, and to the lobster cookers

who ensured the crustaceans were delicious.

"We also have an amazing caterer, Ray and Sherry. They have catered for us for eighteen years, and their food is amazing," said Astill. She also thanked St. Joseph's church for being accommodating and generous.

Astill said those who attend are generous beyond words. "Often, the same people who have donated to the event will then come as attendees. The people who come open their wallets and hearts and have a blast. Attendees even help us clean up at the end, so they are amazing."

This year's event, with over 300 guests and a bigger 50/50 than last year, brought in \$90,000, well over the average, and will enable the Whitecourt Rotary Club to add to their wish list instead of removing anything from it. "Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Without you, all this is not possible," said Prufer.



Someone's excited for lobster!



The east coast expert lobster cookers.



# 2024 Woodlands County property tax rate

At its regular meeting on May 8, 2024, Council passed Bylaw 614-24, setting the 2024 Property Tax Rate. This bylaw includes a 3.1% increase in tax revenue for the municipality.

Since October 2019, Woodlands County has been following a five-year financial recovery plan. This plan included a 3% annual increase to municipal tax revenue. As 2024 marks the final year of this plan, it has successfully achieved its objectives.

Municipalities in Alberta are required to collect education tax on behalf of the provincial

government through the property taxation system. Woodlands County has seen an additional 7.9% increase from 2023 in the provincial education requisition portion of their property tax notice. This rise in provincial education revenue is attributed to an overall increase in property value across Alberta.

Reeve Dave Kusch expressed, "it's a disappointing situation and highlights the challenge of municipalities being tasked with collecting provincial government taxes. While Council is deeply committed to

fiscal responsibility, it may not appear as such to residents and business owners when they receive their tax notice. A significant portion of this invoice does not directly benefit Woodlands County programs and services, yet the municipality is obligated to address questions and concerns from residents and businesses."

Reeve Kusch further emphasizes, "Council hopes all residents and business owners take time to understand their tax notice and where their funds are going. Woodlands County recognizes the challenges

	2024 Tax Rate	2023 Tax Rate
<b>General Municipal</b>		
Residential & Farmland	3.2558	3.3062
Non-Residential/Machinery & Equipment/Linear	12.7928	12.9280
<b>Education Tax</b>		
Residential and Farmland	2.4655	2.2175
Non-Residential	3.5626	3.3993
<b>Senior's Foundation</b>		
Lac Ste. Anne Foundation	.2401	.1972
Barrhead & District Social Housing Association	.2140	.1398
Linear	.2381	.1927
<b>Designated Industrial Property</b>	.0765	.0746

\*See full bylaw for all class rates

for many families and business owners though Council remains committed to managing a responsible budget."

Woodlands Coun-

ty property tax notices are currently being prepared and will be sent to all ratepayers early next week. Individuals with outdated

mailing addresses are encouraged to update their information using the form available at <https://woodlands.ab.ca/p/update-contact>.



## 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  
**Visit our Website:** www.eaglerivercasino.ca  
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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.  
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						R	B	I			M	A	N	A	G	E	D			
										T	A	N	N	I	N	G	B	E	D	S
						A	B	U	S	I	V	E	L	Y						
T	A	I	S			L	A	C			U	B	Y	K	H					
R	H	E	E			E	D	T			O	A	R	E	D					
E	E	L	S			Y	E	A			A	G	I	L	E					
E	D	D				S	S	R			I	S	L	E						

## SUDOKU

9	4	3	2	1	5	8	6	7
5	6	8	7	3	4	9	2	1
1	7	2	6	8	9	5	4	3
2	5	4	8	9	7	1	3	6
8	1	6	3	4	2	7	5	9
3	9	7	1	5	6	2	8	4
6	2	1	5	7	3	4	9	8
4	8	5	9	6	1	3	7	2
7	3	9	4	2	8	6	1	5

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