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The Press

COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

Locally Owned & Operated

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Priorities for the Community Services Advisory Board released; include merging two popular events



Volunteers from the Community Services Advisory Board recently revealed the results of their May Planning Session. Some of the ideas from resident feedback included moving the air compressor closer to the river slides at Festival Park, having Party in the Park on Canada Day, and adding accessible playground equipment to Town parks. What would Party in the Park be like if it merged with Canada Day?
See story page 2.



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Priorities for the Community Services Advisory Board released; include merging two popular events



CSAB members jump deep into the Town's recreation programming.

By Serena Lapointe

Each year, the community volunteers and Town administrators that comprise the Community Services Advisory Board meet to discuss how recreation and programming are going in the municipality. Along with reviewing service levels and fees for using town buildings, like the Allan & Jean Millar Centre or JDA Place, the group also comes up with topics to focus their efforts on.

"We get together and look at what was talked about last year, where it stood, what happened and what we would like to see moving forward. We talk about services, as well as facilities. Throughout the year, we also get presentations from community organizations that come to us, such as the Mountain Bike Park, Eastlink Park, the golf course, curling club, daycares, and various organizations to keep us apprised of what their plans are and where they are going," explained Board Chair Brigitte Moore, during a recent presentation to Town Council.

Moore explained that their yearly planning session also includes feedback from the general public, which members collect through various public engagements. "We do a pre-exercise where everybody fills out a paper, with the idea being that we go back to the community and ask for their input as well to get an idea of what the community wants to see in their town," said Moore.

One example is through social media posts. Moore herself has posted each year, asking friends to provide input. "To give you an idea of if that works, last year I had a friend who wrote to me that they wanted to see a Youth Week. So, I brought that before the board and look what we just had," explained Moore, pointing to the recent, first-ever Youth Week. "That was great to see that process work and that community members know they have a way to reach out and have some input," she added. Moore explained to the Town Council that once the group meets, they compile the ideas received

and vote on each idea they think should be a priority. "Then we step back and look them over," she said.

From their session in early May, the top vote-getting idea was a combo event for Party in the Park and Canada Day, garnering a vote from ten members. "You have Party in the Park, which is awesome, and then you have Canada Day not long after. Volunteer groups are often tired and might be hard to get. Then there is the cost. I know the administration is looking into the specific grants for Canada Day and what that impact would be. We are still exploring whether that would be beneficial and if there would be any cost savings associated there," explained Moore.

Another idea brought up was holding Welcome to Whitecourt/Newcomer events. "We seem to have an influx of new people coming to town and sometimes it's hard to know you're reaching everybody," said Moore. The idea would be to hold events for newcomers to meet and receive in-

formation such as the Spectrum and Tourism Guide. "It's kind of like a Welcome Wagon but a little more group orientated so they can meet other newcomers," said Moore, adding that the idea is pending more budget information.

The third idea on the list of priorities was exploring adding more cooking classes to the Town's Arts & Culture programming schedule. Moore said cooking-related events book up and have waiting lists. "It seems to be something that people really want to get into. Maybe it's the price of groceries, and they want to cook more instead of eating out." She spoke about her son attending one at the Senior's Circle where youth cooked with the seniors. She said he loved it and everyone who attended did too, adding that it was a great way to connect.

Priorities that received four votes and made up the list of six priorities for the year, include adding activities/programming on trails near the spurs, increasing advertising for all programming, and adding street signage

for the Off-Leash Dog Park and the parking area.

Items on the list not deemed priorities included things like adding a rock-climbing wall to a Town facility, putting a new rink at Ecole St. Joseph School, accessible playground equipment on municipal playgrounds, a pump track at Festival Park, holding a multicultural event/fair, increasing adult recreation programming, and adding a suggestion box at Festival Park.

One item left outstanding from the 2024 list was a review of the Whitecourt Children's Festival. Moore explained that once the board receives the data on attendance and cost from this year's event, they will see if it should continue.

One item in the non-priority list questioned by Council was moving the air compressor at Festival Park from the concession building where it currently resides, to the old bathroom building closer to the slides. The question was whether it was feasible, as it could

be a win-win for families not having to walk as far to inflate inflatables.

"We have looked at it before," explained Chelsea Grande, Director of Community Services. "There are a few things that go with that because they use that area (the space in the back of the old bathroom building) for their staff and their timesheets, and they have an office area set up in there and (the air compressor) is quite loud. It would be difficult to have that running and still be able to take phone calls and be in there." She said they would continue to look at it.

In total, the board brought forward thirty items to vote on for their 2025 priorities. Four will be reviewed in next year's budget deliberations which begin this fall. Grande added that any of the non-priority items could be snapped up and fulfilled by admin. "There are some on here that we will pick up as quick wins if we can if there are not a lot of costs and they are feasible. We have done that before."

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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**
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Drew Patterson
Age 14

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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Cutbanks Road realignment set to start next year; Old Ferry Road residents will soon get a say on what realignment looks like for them



The very eroded riverbank near the intersection of Old Ferry Road and RR 1245.



The very eroded riverbank near the intersection of Old Ferry Road and RR 1245.

The Cutbanks Road and Old Ferry Road, both heavily damaged from last year's flooding, with severe loss to nearby riverbanks, will see a significant 'shift' starting next year.

By Serena Lapointe

Two roads in Woodlands County, which suffered immensely in last year's flooding events, are getting closer to being fixed up. Approximately 300 meters of Cutbanks Road, east of the tube put in, and approximately 350m of Old Ferry Road, between Range Road 124B and Range Road 125, were significantly damaged when the McLeod River swelled, overtaking land and washing away large portions of the riverbank.

Since the flood, barriers have been in place to highlight the danger. Woodlands County hired a consultant to provide short-, medium and long-term solutions to fix the erosion at both sites. During Woodlands County Council's July 17 meeting, Jeff Zhang, Director of Infrastructure

Services, provided the consultant's options.

Seven options were developed and evaluated for the Cutbanks Road, which included closing the road, doing nothing, building a new road, rebuilding the slope to pre-flood condition, bio-engineering the section or building a sheet pile retaining wall. Each option had a different life expectancy and the approximate cost to the County.

The sheet pile retaining wall, as one example, had a life span of 30 to 50 years, for eight million, with annual maintenance of \$5,000. Building a new road had a lifespan of 50 years, for 1.3 million. Rebuilding the slope and replacing the land that washed away was estimated at \$1,635,000. However, the lifespan was only ten years, and annual

maintenance could cost up to \$25,000.

The consultant provided fifteen options for Old Ferry Road with a similar cost/lifespan breakdown. Several of the options had to do with re-aligning the road. One option was to realign it 20m parallel to the existing alignment for 2.9 million. Though the impact on land and residents would be far less, Zhang explained that doing this option would last no more than five years and that the next flood would wipe it out.

Other options included closing the section of the road along the affected area and removing the loop functionality but with a substantially lower residential impact or re-aligning it using existing subdivision roads, with a greater impact on landowners. The

consultants also said a sheet pile retaining wall was an option. However, similar to the Cutbanks Road, the cost was high, at just over \$17,000,000. The highest option provided was rebuilding the bank and using a Gabion Basket MSE wall (rock-filled metal cage partitions), which would set the County back over 23 million bucks and cost up to \$35,000 per year in maintenance.

Zhang explained that both projects, Cutbanks and Old Ferry, were identified in the provincial government's Disaster Recovery Program (DRP). "The DRP is intended to be a cost-reimbursement, after construction, to fund the restoration of damaged assets back to their pre-disaster functional state. Administration has been in regular communications with the province on

this project."

He said they did not have a funding guarantee but that the province could fund close to \$1,635,000 for Cutbanks Road and up to \$2,400,000 for Old Ferry Road. The funding would cover most of the cost of both recommended fixes from the list. For Cutbanks Road, Zhang recommended building a new road rather than trying to fix the current one and chance another flood damaging it again. A road rebuild to the south of the current road would cost \$1,300,000, well under the expected provincial funding threshold.

Pre-tender engineering services would cost roughly \$100,000, and post-tender engineering services would cost about \$150,000. The cost of property acquisition was not disclosed in the meeting

and would be budgeted. A \$250,000 budget had previously been set aside. Zhang recommended that the Council use \$100,000 of it for pre-tender services. The remaining \$150,000 could be used for the same pre-tender services for the Old Ferry Road project, as explained below.

Councillor Bruce Prestige asked what would happen to the old Cutbanks Road once the new one was in place. "If we move the road, the old road can either be left in place, and we could do a land exchange with one of the neighbouring landowners, or we could reclaim it. That's a decision later for the Council to make," answered Zhang. Though reclaiming it was an option, he did not recommend it. "The road

continued on page 7

continued from page 6

does provide some value in flood mitigation," he said.

Councillor Alan Deane wondered if the old road area could be used as a recreation site. "One of the things that is not necessarily stressed within our Strategic Plan is an overall Recreation Master Plan. Certainly, one of the deficiencies that's been identified is public river access. I want that out in the public forum again so that people understand there is not great access to that river. It's a great recreation river when it doesn't flood."

Council agreed on the costs for the Cutbanks Road project and, with their vote, greenlit a rebuild to the south of the current road, with construction anticipated to begin next year, following design consultations. "Administration will continue to engage the Province for funding once there is a design and further clarity on funding," added Zhang.

Old Ferry Road, however, was a different story. The options provided for rebuilding the roadway saw surrounding residents losing large chunks of property with a potential new road mere steps

from homes it was once far from. Reeve Kusch asked if there had been any consultations with area residents, to which Zhang said no. "If we go to re-route the road and there is substantial pushback from residents on the impact to their properties, to be able to realign this and make it, what is the Plan B behind that," queried Reeve Kusch? Zhang said they would choose a different option.

Councillor John Burrows joined the conversation. "There's a fair bit of traffic on Old Ferry, and this is a pretty significant realignment. I think we're going to

get a lot of pushback on L2C (pictured). Just so that Council is aware. I don't know how else to put it," he said. Reeve Kusch agreed and asked if public consultation could happen first. "I would like to make sure we've had that type of consultation or discussion with the residents, especially the ones who may be impacted by the road being moved through their property before we make a decision on this."

Zhang said he supported having an open house to show residents the options. He asked that the Council consider approving \$100,000

for engineering so that they could have better mapping. "Right now, it's more of a line on a map. It's not precise. If it's agreeable to Council, I would like to proceed with some quick engineering to show the impacts to different landowners."

Woodlands County Council agreed. Public consultation will happen at an open house planned for late summer. No date was set at the time of this writing. Affected residents on Old Ferry Road are highly encouraged to attend and have a say on the future of the roadway, as land acquisition will be part of

it for several property owners, depending on the option chosen.

The cost to realign the road is an estimated \$3,000,000, and the anticipated government funding is roughly 2.4 million, leaving \$600,000 for the County to cover. Zhang explained that the DRP did not cover land acquisition costs, resulting in the remaining chunk. He said other programs might fund land acquisition related to flood projects.

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Whitecourt Local Ally-Ann Romanchuk Announced as Winner of 2024 Green Dream Internship Program

Ally-Ann Romanchuk, a resident of Whitecourt, AB, has been announced as one of the five participants in Forest Products Association of Canada's (FPAC) 2024 Green Dream Internship Program. Ally-Ann will be working as an Accounting Intern at Alberta Newsprint Company in Whitecourt, AB.

The Green Dream Internship Program, a national initiative launched in 2013, showcases the experiences and perspectives of students working in the forest sector over a six-week period. Each intern also receives a \$1,000 scholarship to further their education. Throughout the summer, Ally-Ann and the

other interns will develop social media content ranging from blogs and vlogs to TikToks and Instagram stories, sharing what they enjoy most about their summer job in forestry, interviewing colleagues, and creating 'day in the life' style videos.

"Growing up in rural Alberta, forestry has and always will be a very big aspect of my life and I enjoy exploring and having an impact on sustainable forestry through my work. I am very proud to be selected as part of the Green Dream Internship program and hope to further explore forestry through this opportunity," Ally-Ann said.

"Ally-Ann's forestry

background goes back several generations, and her dedication to sustainable forestry practices and environmental protection, combined with her keen analytical mind, makes her a perfect fit for our program. We look forward to Ally-Ann's contributions in showcasing the vital role of forestry in Alberta and beyond," said FPAC President and CEO Derek Nighbor.

About Ally-Ann

Ally-Ann is a dedicated and outgoing individual who volunteers with the food bank and Koats for Kids and tutors younger students in her free time. She plans to attend NAIT to become an X-ray and lab technician, but her

current role as an Accounting Intern at ANC has sparked an interest in accounting as a potential career path. Ally-Ann values sharing work experiences to help others make informed career decisions and believes that discussing various job experiences can guide students toward their future paths.

On Canadian Forestry

Growing up in Whitecourt, AB, a forestry-centered town, Ally-Ann witnessed firsthand the positive impact of the forestry industry on her community. Following in the footsteps of her father, uncle, and grandfather, she learned about sustainable for-

estry practices and the importance of environmental protection from an early age. Her experience at ANC has reinforced her belief in the industry's commitment to sustainability and its role in preventing wildfires and encouraging regrowth for wildlife habitats. Ally-Ann appreciates the well-regulated and researched nature of Canadian forestry and its significance to small communities like hers.

Skills and Attributes

Ally-Ann is a natural leader and team player, having served as co-captain of her senior year volleyball team. She excels in problem-solving, thinking creatively to find long-

term solutions. Her love for nature, combined with her organizational skills and adaptability, makes her a valuable asset to the forestry sector. Despite having no prior accounting experience before joining ANC, Ally-Ann quickly adapted and was running accounts payable independently within two months. Her ability to learn quickly and her analytical mindset contribute to her success in various fields.

Content generated by Ally-Ann and the other 2024 Green Dream Interns will be shared online throughout the summer. Follow along with their summer adventures on FPAC's X, Facebook and LinkedIn pages.

Cyanobacteria (blue-green algae) advisory issued for Goose Lake

Cyanobacteria (blue-green algae) has been identified in the waters of Goose Lake. Residents living near the shores of this lake, as well as visitors to this lake, are advised to take the following precautions:

- Avoid all contact with cyanobacterial blooms. If contact occurs, wash with tap water as soon as possible.
- Do not swim or wade or allow your pets to swim or wade in any areas where cyanobacteria is visible.
- Do not feed whole fish or fish trimmings

from this lake to your pets.

- Consider limiting human consumption of whole fish and fish trimmings from this lake, as it is known that fish may store toxins in their liver. (People can safely consume fish fillets from this lake).

As always, visitors and residents are reminded to never drink or cook with untreated water directly from any recreational body of water, including Goose Lake, at any time. Boiling of this water will not remove the toxins produced by cyano-

bacteria. An alternate source of drinking water should also be provided for pets and livestock, while this advisory is active.

Cyanobacteria is naturally occurring, and often becomes visible when weather conditions are calm. Appearing like scum, grass clippings, fuzz, or globs on the surface of water, cyanobacteria can be blue-green, greenish-brown, brown, and/or pinkish-red, and often smell musty or grassy.

People who come in contact with visible cyanobacteria or who

ingest water containing cyanobacteria may experience skin irritation, rash, sore throat, sore red eyes, swollen lips, fever, nausea and vomiting and/or diarrhea. Symptoms usually appear within one to three hours and resolve in one to two days. Symptoms in children are often more pronounced; however, all humans are at risk of these symptoms. Exposure to the bacteria may be fatal to pets.

Weather and wind conditions can cause algae blooms to move from one location in

the lake to another. As such, this advisory will remain in effect for Goose Lake, until further notice.

Please note that waters of Goose Lake in which the cyanobacterial bloom is NOT visible can still be used for recreational purposes, even while this Health Advisory is in place.

If you suspect a problem related to cyanobacteria or if you require further information on health concerns and cyanobacteria, please call Health Link at 811. Additional information is also available online, at

www.ahs.ca/bga.

Alberta Health Services is the provincial health authority responsible for planning and delivering health supports and services for more than four million adults and children living in Alberta. Our mission is to provide a patient-focused, quality health system that is accessible and sustainable for all Albertans. Our current focus is on reducing emergency department wait-times, improving EMS response times, increasing access to surgeries, and improving patient flow.

Five ways to save money on your daily essentials

(NC) Given the cost of living challenges that many of us are facing in 2024, it seems like everyone is pinching pennies and stretching their dollars as far as they can. If you're looking to save money on your daily essentials, here are some practical ways to embrace a more frugal lifestyle:

1. Create a budget:

If you aren't budgeting already this is a necessary start. Track your monthly spending and get a sense of where exactly your money is going. This will give you a great view into your spending habits. Then review your expenses and make a go-forward



plan. Where can you reel in your spending on items that may escape your attention? For example, check your service contracts and see if you can bring

your monthly costs down.

2. Bulk buying: Do you have items you use regularly? Enjoy a lower cost per unit by stocking up on pantry staples

and household items. Stocking up on items may have a larger upfront cost, but if you're able to buy them during sales you can save money in the long run.

3. Memberships, discounts and coupons:

Unlock savings galore by diving into the world of coupons, discount codes and loyalty programs. Many stores offer regular discounts for members. Be sure to keep an eye out for promotions and discount codes when shopping online and take advantage of retailers that offer price matching.

4. Savvy shopper secrets:

Before you buy be sure to compare prices. Check weekly flyers, price comparison websites or apps that help you find the lowest prices and price match where possible.

5. Bundling bonanza:

From insurance to gym memberships, some companies offer discounts or promotional rates when you bundle multiple services together. When it comes to telecommunications providers, customers can save big by bundling their streaming services. As an example, customers with Koodo can save with "Happy Stack," a bundle that includes cellphone, internet and streaming services rolled into one discounted price.

By incorporating these lifestyle tips you can take charge of your finances and embark on a journey towards a more financially secure future.

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Hang out at the Point

On Saturday afternoon, friends Cash Taylor (left) and Devon Peterson chose Memorial Point, just off Sakwatamau Drive overlooking Highway 43 and the valley below, as their hang-out spot. Though the air was a bit smokey due to nearby forest fires in Jasper and the province's north, the two picked a bench in the shade to escape the hot sun.

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Woodlands County Council discussed the following items at their recent meeting of Council:

Woodlands County continues to work through damages and impacts to critical infrastructure as a result of the flooding in 2023. Both Cutbanks Road and Old Ferry Road had portions of the roadway washed out and effects to the McLeod River slope. These repair projects have been identified in the Disaster Recovery Program through the Government of Alberta, with an unexpected funding value to the County. Council approved \$100,000 for engineering services for the Cutbanks Road bank erosion project and \$150,000 for engineering services for the Old Ferry Road bank erosion project. A public input session will be hosted to discuss options on Old Ferry Road with area

residents in the coming months.

The County's Infrastructure Services team is exploring options and alternatives to failing cold mix road surfaces in its subdivisions. As part of a cold mix road pilot project, Council reviewed a variety of options in the Westridge subdivision and approved a "modified cold in place recycling" option on Range Road 114B, Township Road 592A and 592B. This option provides a hard surface with a reasonable life span to maintain the level of service and work is expected to be completed by the end of August. Following the receipt of an engineering report, Council will review road options for Gibson subdivision, Sagitawah Estates and Township Road 592

leading to Pine Meadows and Woodlands Estates subdivisions.

A used belly dump trailer purchase of \$40,000 was approved funded from the Equipment Reserve to replace annual equipment rental fees of approximately \$11,000. Belly dump trailers are necessary for County operations such as gravelling, gravel hauling, culvert replacements and more.

Council supported Councillor John Burrows' candidacy for RMA Board of Directors President, which is elected in fall 2024. Councillor Burrows has been a Director on RMA's Board since 2021.

It's Logical was awarded the Level of Service Review project at a value of \$42,000. It's Logical

will conduct a review of all service levels and provide a report to the County to support future planning and budget preparation. Service level reviews are an integral piece of municipal planning to ensure resources and funding are aligned with the strategic priorities and providing programs and services to the public.

Woodlands County Economic Development Officer Bert Roach was named one of North America's Top 50 Economic Developers by Consultant Connect. Mr. Roach was recognized for his dedication in supporting local business, forging new partnerships, and advocating for new economic supports and opportunities to boost economic growth in the

region and improve the quality of life of its residents. He is the 7th Canadian and 1st Albertan to be named to the list. Congratulations Mr. Roach on this remarkable achievement.

Upcoming scheduled meetings:

- Regular Council – Wednesday, August 14, 9:30 am
- Regular Council – Wednesday, September 11, 5:00 pm

• Governance and Priorities – Wednesday, September 18, 5:00 pm

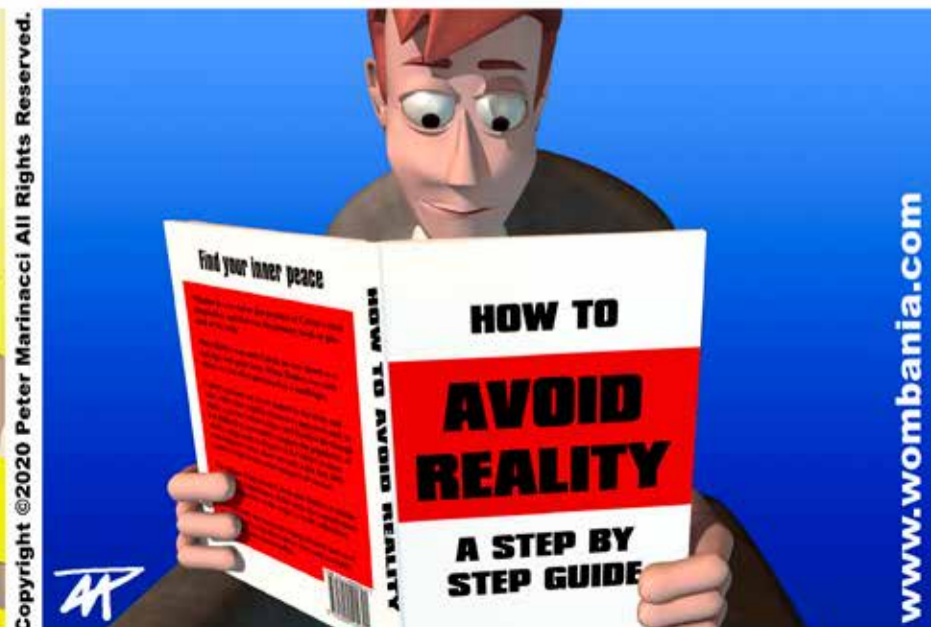
• Regular Council – Wednesday, September 25, 9:30 am

Meetings are 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.

Local news printed on local newsprint

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by PETER MARINACCI



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Whitecourt Town Council updates

After an extensive review process, and numerous public consultation initiatives, Whitecourt has adopted a new:

- Municipal Development Plan Bylaw – which sets the long-term vision for the community;
- Land Use Bylaw – which is the tool that we use to implement the Town’s vision and broader goals; and,
- North Flats Area Structure Plan Bylaw – which outlines the specific vision for the lands that lie north of Flats Road and south of the Athabasca River.

Thank you to the Committee members for their hard work and dedication, and to the many residents, stakeholders and agencies that provided input into the creation of these bylaws.

Whitecourt will be proceeding with three energy projects with funding support from the Municipal Climate Change Action Centre’s Community Energy Conservation (CEC) Program. CEC

has approved 50% funding (\$345,214) to go towards the following projects to help reduce energy consumption, save utility costs, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions:

- McLeod Arena roof replacement at JDA Place.
- REALice, a high-precision water treatment system for ice rinks, will be installed at JDA Place. The system eliminates the need for hot water when building and resurfacing the ice.
- Replacement of two boilers at the Allan & Jean Millar Centre.

The Communities in Bloom provincial judges will be touring Whitecourt on Monday, August 12 to rate our community in eight categories as part of the provincial competition. Let’s all do our part in showing the judges just how beautiful Whitecourt is! The Whitecourt Communities in Bloom Committee requests your support in showcasing Whitecourt to the provincial judges,

and asks that we all keep Whitecourt beautiful by making sure our yards are tidy, and by ensuring our green spaces and business storefronts are litter free. Whitecourt is an incredible place to live, and the Committee wants to make sure that it is showcased at its best for this year’s competition.

A delegation from Whitecourt’s Twin Town of Yubetsu, Japan is scheduled to tour Whitecourt from September 24 and October 1, 2024. The delegation, which includes 10 students and two chaperones, will be homestayng, and Whitecourt is currently looking for local families that would be interested in taking a student into their home and sharing their community and customs. For more information, please contact Andrew Malmquist at 780-787-3637 or andrewmalmquist@whitecourt.ca.

Whitecourt Town Council received a quarterly financial report and 2024 Project List at the July 15 Regular Meeting. Both reports are available to view at www.whitecourt.ca/your-town



Flower bed

There may very well be plenty of residents in Whitecourt with flowerbeds in their front or backyards, but there is likely only one with a real flowerbed. Case in point: 38 Kimzey Crossing, where the homeowners have taken the term as literally as possible, placing a gold metal bed frame on their front lawn and filling it with beautiful red, white and pink flowers. Very well done, 38 Kimzey Crossing. You win.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

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NOTICE OF DECISION

The following decisions were made by the Municipal Planning Commission:

Application 24-058: 207, 4505-51 Avenue – Home Occupation – Taxi Service – Approved with Conditions.

Date of Decision: July 11, 2024 **Appeal Closes at 4:00pm:** August 1, 2024

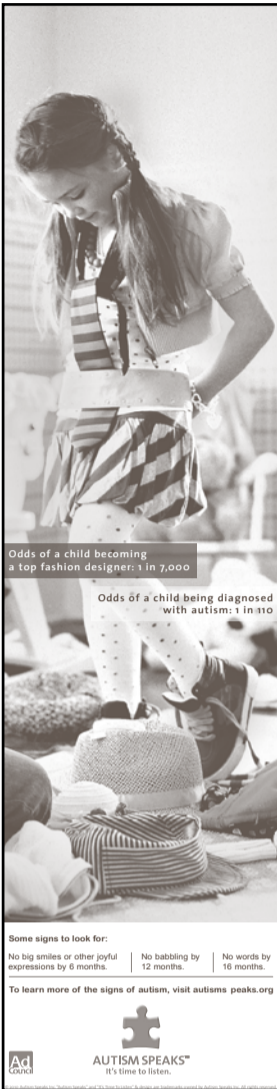
An Appeal of the above decision(s) may be made by submitting a written appeal and appeal fee (\$300) to the Office of the Secretary of the Subdivision and Development Appeal Board, Town of Whitecourt Administration Building, Box 509, Whitecourt, Alberta, T7S 1N6 prior to 4:00pm on the above noted date.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



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Business Opportunities

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Rocky Mountain House are retiring and would like to see the business continue. Call 403-845-4146 for details.

Coming Events

FIREARMS WANTED FOR OUR 2024 AUCTION PROGRAM: Rifles, Shotguns, Handguns, Antiques, Militaria, Collections, Estates, Single Items. For Auction, or Possible Purchase: Toll-Free 1-800-694-2609, Email Us at sales@switzersauction.com or Visit Us @ www.switzersauction.com.

Farm Machinery

GET YOUR MESSAGE SEEN ACROSS Alberta. The Blanket Classifieds or Value Ads reach over 600,000 Alberta readers weekly. Two options starting at \$269 or \$799 to get your message out! Business changes, hiring, items for sale, cancellations, tenders, etc. People are

increasingly staying home and rely on their local newspapers for information. KEEP people in the loop with our 80 Weekly Community Newspapers. Call THIS NEWSPAPER now or email classifieds@awna.com for details. 1-800-282-6903, 780-434-8746 X225. www.awna.com.

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Real Estate

SELLING MY RETIREMENT HOUSE with river and mountain views on 3.93 acres along the Red Deer River and adjoining 200+ acres of environmental reserve. Buy 4 acres and enjoy the use of 204 acres. For more information and pictures, see MLS listing # A2148481.

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- Hammertoes
- Warts

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



Dr. Ben Sefcik, DPM Podiatrist

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A look at the local weather

P.O.P.
High
Low
Wind
24-Hr Rain / Snow



Wed., July 24
Sunny
0%
30°C
15°C
NW 14 km/h



Thu., July 25
Chance of a shower
60%
24°C
15°C
W 23 km/h



Fri., July 26
Chance of a shower
20%
20°C
12°C
W 19 km/h



Sat., July 27
Mix of sun and clouds
30%
22°C
12°C
W 24 km/h
<1mm



Sun., July 28
Mix of sun and clouds
30%
25°C
14°C
W 9 km/h

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.



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



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

HELP WANTED

Tim Hortons in Whitecourt is looking to fill the following positions:

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Full Time / Shift Work

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Money Matters

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Dollar Values as of July 24, 2024

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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
How to Apply: Send 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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More roofs for more heads: Home construction surge continues in Alberta

By Siddhartha Bhattacharya
ATB ECONOMICS

Six months into the year, home construction momentum is still robust.

Housing starts in Alberta came in at 42,271 units* in June, up 58% from the same month last year and was the 11th month in a row with starts at or above 40,000 units.

Starts averaged 44,550 units over the last six months, up 53% on a year-to-date (YTD) basis. The last time Alberta had seen starts this high over the first half of a year was back in the 2007 boom.

Single-detached starts have moved higher but

over two-thirds of the YTD aggregate increase has come from multi-units which were sitting at the highest point on record for the first six months of the year.

Regionally, Calgary and Edmonton have been building momentum since the end of last year with the former hitting a decade high back in September 2023. Edmonton has been playing catch up, but YTD starts were up by 67% through June.

Alberta's housing construction performance looks even more impressive when compared to the national picture. After a few up-ticks at the end of 2023, home construction ac-



tivity shifted into reverse gear across most other regions. Despite

a buffer from Quebec (+37% YTD), starts in the rest of the country

edged down 1% YTD from 2023.

The ongoing housing

construction upswing is in line with our latest economic outlook and is helping to meet the demand brought on by strong population growth. While the new construction is welcome news, one of the key factors holding back an even hotter pace of new construction is the ongoing shortage of skilled workers.

Home construction is one of the key factors, along with rising energy production, pushing Alberta's forecast of real GDP growth ahead of the national average.

*All data in this report are seasonally adjusted at an annual rate or SAAR.

PUZZLES SOLUTIONS

WORD SEARCH

A 20x20 word search grid with words highlighted in orange. The words are: STOP, SUNGLASSES, EXMUSHUP, CAPLN, SEADEWGT, GACOEFTGV, WIRTPGWSKN, CRIN, FARGETEGLHEND, BOLBDXRO, FLTLRLANL, CIGHNVM, CITUMUOPS, VEIOITMUMA, VVNIERA, PENIDF, SSMRGGRTU, XENIKS, FENKXEPUA, RADIATION, WFEBA, MUNBPS.

CROSSWORDS

A crossword puzzle grid with words filled in. The words are: PHIL, ENMESH, AAR, DIALOG, PI, TWO, NOEL, ANDEAN, CICALDAS, ICONIC, OSTTRICH, NAUTILLI, MT, INRO, ASAP, AGE, CRT, DODOS, OSS, HEIR, THOU, ENTO, SH, PROFANE, STATUTE, MULLET, SENATOR, ITALIC, TERM, SAC, LH, KOREAN, EGO, BRIDLE, DEN.

SUDOKU

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

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