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The Press

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Vol. 13 - Issue 35 | Wednesday, August 28, 2024

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Summer Park Parties were a big hit as year three wrapped up at Percy Baxter Playground



A happy group.



Another summer season of park parties wrapped up last week. The event featured sun and rain, but even though the weather dampened the people and things, it did not dampen their spirits. A fierce battle of tug-o-war! See story page 4.



Patrick Carew

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- CS Rose Construction
- Mini R Contracting

Noteworthy acknowledgement for providing BBQ, Food & drinks for Volunteers

- Flint Energy Service
- Stone RV Sales & Service

Tribute to

- Chelsey Roswell
- The Press - Valerie Winger

Extra special recognition to those that helped with installing bases and home plates, hanging signs, spreading wood chips and leveling out the bridge on trail.

- Ashley Johnston
- Brian Hatch
- Cory Lussier
- Jamie Trenholm
- Reilly Trenholm
- Karissa Peach
- Natasha Lee-Ann Schnurer
- Sierra Lemp
- Stephen Rose
- Warren MacDougall
- Zackery Johnston

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SIERRA LAMP
780-305-1714

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2024
 @ The Forest Interpretive Centre

Contact:
 WSPA PRESIDENT
BRIAN HATCH
7-780-779-1904

Bubble Run



A happy participant.

Anytime Fitness held its annual 5k Bubble Run on Saturday at Festival Park. The event raises necessary funds for the Whitecourt BGC (Boys and Girls Club), allowing them to run programming opportunities for community youth. Even though the day was rainy, around 100 people ran the five-kilometre race, which resulted in attendees being covered with bubbles from head to toe. Four hardworking volunteers posed for a quick celebratory picture in front of their trailer full of stuff as they put things away until next year.



Volunteers make it happen!



Lots of bubbles to cross the finish line with.



SO MANY BUBBLES!



WE WILL BE HOSTING AN EVENT ON
SEPT. 23 2024
@ 6PM

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Contact:
 WSPA President
BRIAN HATCH
1-780-779-1904
 if you are interested in attending




Team WFA Foam Fighters (Jess, Samantha, and Dustin).

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Summer Park Parties were a big hit as year three wrapped up at Percy Baxter Playground



Lots of attendees before the rain.



These two had a blast playing in the downpour.



Rotary volunteers cooking hot dogs.

By Serena Lapointe

The Town of Whitecourt, along with the P.O.W.E.R. Group (People of Whitecourt Encouraging Resiliency) and the Rotary Club of Whitecourt, just wrapped up the third year of summertime Whitecourt Park Parties.

Each month, June through August, featured activities at a different community park. In June, the first party took place in Southland Park. In July, the party was in Wagoner Park, and last week, on Wednesday, August 21, the summer action wrapped up at Percy

Baxter Playground. The events play on the idea of a Block Party, which are neighbourhood-specific events so neighbours can meet each other and get to know those who live near them. Over the last three years, there have **continued on page 5**

continued from page 4

been nine summer Park Parties. Various groups have taken part, including first responders. "We wanted to bring attention to all the great little community parks that we have and then bring those families together so that the neighbourhood, much like a Block Party, could come together and get to know each other."

Fay Arcand, F.C.S.S Program Coordinator, said the events allow them to promote town programming by sharing information on upcoming events, handing out the Spectrum, and providing safety tips. "Knowing your neighbours helps with crime prevention, community building and the feel-good feeling of knowing who your neighbours are," added Arcand.

Early in last week's event, a large group of attendees were there having fun. Young children played with the toys, like an obstacle course made of foam bars and hoola hoops. There were a bunch of

supplies to blow soap bubbles with, which had children jumping up trying to pop them or chasing them back towards the school's track field, and the F.C.S.S team had a table where a youngster was offering paint tattoos and some little crafts. The Whitecourt Cornhole League also had a play area set up.

Under a big tent beside Arcand's tent, volunteers from the Rotary Club of Whitecourt cooked up a storm serving hot dogs. "When we first started doing this event, we would buy the supplies and then in the second year, Rotary said they would buy the supplies. So, this is all a donation on the Rotary Club's part. Not only with volunteers but with purchasing supplies. We have such a strong community, and we are so lucky," said Arcand.

She said that the support from volunteers is what makes events possible. "Volunteers have built communities from the beginning to today. In whatever realm or passion that the indi-

vidual chooses to volunteer in. There are great people involved in the Rotary Club that donate their time, energy and countless hours to different events, but there's also the moms that help at schools and the coaches." She said that volunteerism benefits any community, big or small. "We are that much stronger, not only in our neighbourhoods but our whole community, because of volunteers," explained Arcand.

Courtney Koopmans, A.H.S Health Promotions Facilitator with Community Health, said getting to help put the events on is something she very much enjoys. "I love that we can collaborate on this. As we move forward, there will be challenges within and outside the community. Knowing your neighbours and being able to rely on them is huge. We are the ones who can keep each other safe, and isolation plays a big part in mental health. If we all just come together and enjoy each other in a friendly man-

ner, it's great."

Each year, the parties have a theme that Koopmans uses to wrap her information around. Last year, she focused on injury prevention and gave out information on wearing helmets, as well as other ways that people could prevent injuries. This year, Koopmans focused on alcohol, or rather, no alcohol.

"We've created mocktails for individuals to come and enjoy. It's to show that you don't always need to have alcohol to enjoy yourself and have fun. Our cancer rates are significant in northern Alberta. We are seeing an increase in colon cancers, including in young individuals, and one of the risk factors is alcohol use. Sadly, Whitecourt is known for higher use of alcohol."

Koopmans said it was nice to see mocktails making a splash in restaurants and even in liquor stores. "It shows that even if you go to a party, you don't need alcohol to have fun. Sometimes, we drink

because we don't want to feel on the outside, and you can still have those fancy drinks. We can still have fun, and we can still enjoy nice fruity drinks without the alcohol."

Koopmans also said that getting neighbours together can increase safety for a neighbourhood because when it matters most, they

will know where to turn. She shared that her children were biking home during heavy rain recently, and a friend picked them up to get them home safely. "If your kids are at that early age of being able to stay home alone, it's knowing that if something happens

continued on page 9



The Cornhole League set up games.



Chatting over mocktails.

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ZOOM ID: **818 413 483** PASSWORD: **gratitude**

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Contact: knitterjennifer@gmail.com • 780-706-0061



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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

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Support group on Tuesdays 6:30pm - 8:30 pm, starting September 17, 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
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by PETER MARINACCI

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PUBLIC NOTICE

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

**SEPTEMBER 9, 2024 – 4:00 PM, FOREST INTERPRETIVE CENTRE - COUNCIL CHAMBERS
3002 – 33 STREET, WHITECOURT, AB**

Pursuant to the provisions of the Municipal Government Act, the Town of Whitecourt has received an application to Amend Land Use Bylaw 1577.

Bylaw 1577-1

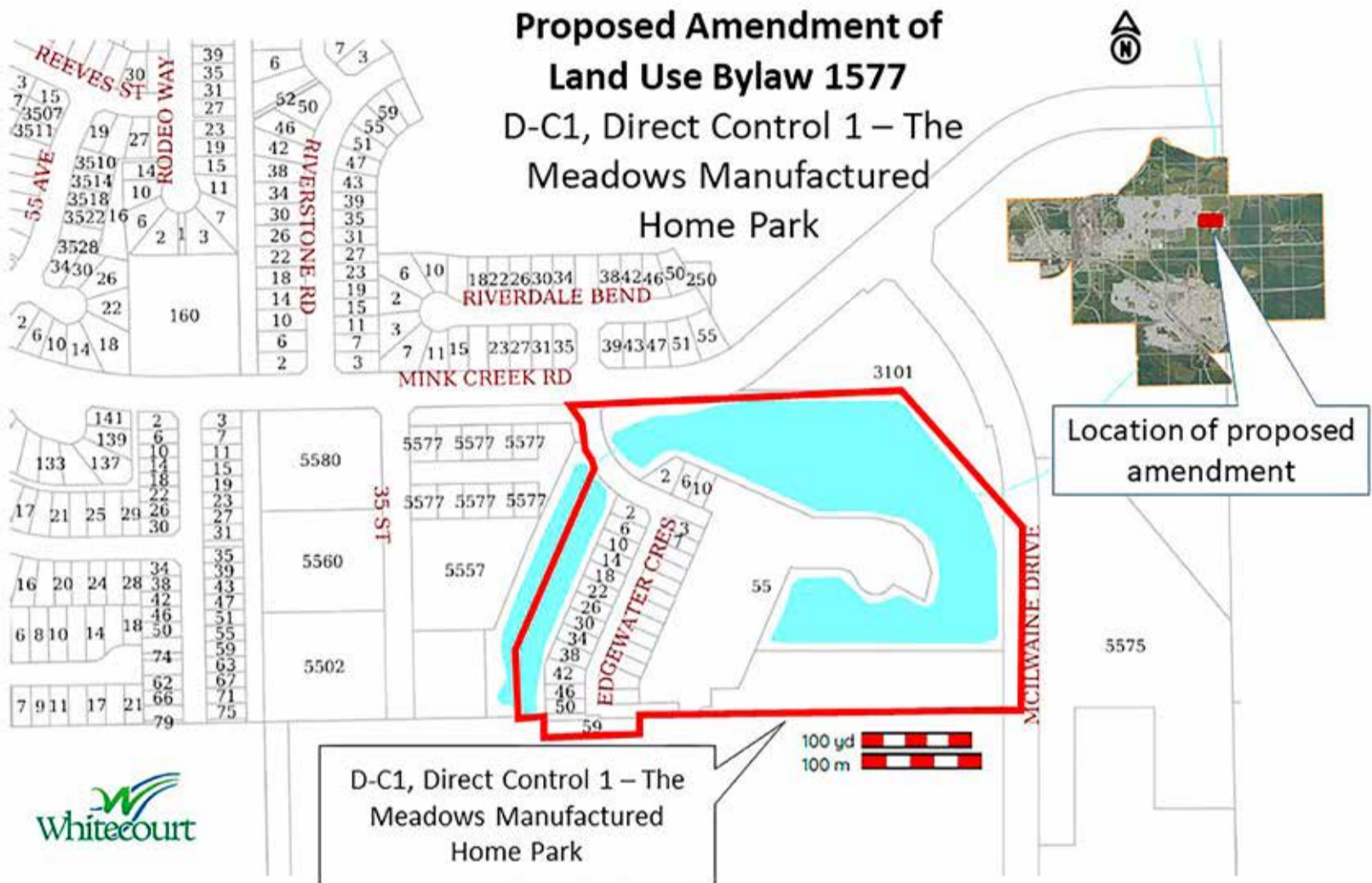
Proposes amendments to the D-C1, Direct Control 1 – The Meadows Manufactured Home Park, Land Use District regulations. The key change proposed under these amendments, is to expand the allowable types of dwellings beyond manufactured homes. Text throughout the section has been edited to reflect this. New uses include:

Permitted:

- Duplex, one unit per lot
- Secondary Suite
- Single Detached Dwelling 62.0m² or greater

Discretionary:

- Duplex



You can learn more about this amendment, including how your property may be affected, **at the public information session held at 3:30 p.m.** at the Forest Interpretive Centre lobby, before the Public Hearing.

The **Public Hearing will be held at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, September 9, 2024** in the Forest Interpretive Centre Council Chambers. The purpose of the Public Hearing is to allow presentations for or against the proposed amendments. Any individuals or organizations may give presentations, speak at the Hearing, or submit written comments for consideration. Written comments must be received at the Town Office before 12:00 noon on Thursday, September 5, 2024.

The proposed amendments can be found on the Town of Whitecourt website at www.whitecourt.ca or viewed using the following QR code. Point the camera on your smart phone at the barcode, and tap the link to view the documents.

Land Use Bylaw 1577-1
D-C1 Direct Control 1 –
The Meadows Manufactured Home Park

The documents will also be made available for viewing at the Town Office 5004 - 52 Avenue, Planning Desk, during regular business hours prior to the Public Hearing.

Questions on the process or the Public Hearing should be directed to Stephanie Schaffner, Planner, at 780-778-2273, e-mailed to stephanieschaffner@whitecourt.ca, or mailed to Box 509, Whitecourt, AB, T7S 1N6.



NOTICE OF DECISION

The following decision was made by the Development Authority:

Application 24-074: 44 Prestilien Drive – Variance Application – Over Height Fence – Approved with Conditions.

Date of Decision(s): August 13, 2024 **Appeal Closes at 4:30pm:** September 3, 2024

An Appeal of the above decision 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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FREE HOT DOGS

Blue Ridge Recreation Area

5km north of Blue Ridge, east off of Highway 658



continued from page 5

and mom and dad aren't home, they can rely on someone nearby. Neighbours are the ones who are going to make sure everyone is safe. It correlates with the Block Party program through the Town of Whitecourt. Our street is going to do our first one this year."

Park parties have been well attended over the summer. Last week, at about the half-way mark, a menacing cloud opened up, and a deluge rained down on attendees, sending them fleeing for cover. The ensuing chaos quickly turned into joy as people huddled under tents and laughed at the predicament they were in. Everywhere one looked, they saw smiles.

Others popped open their tailgates and sat inside their vehicles, and a few young children even continued to play, giving those huddled more of a reason to smile as they lived their best lives, soaked from head to toe. Rain or shine, the event was a hit.

Residents can look forward to two Winter Park Parties. "One will probably be a sliding hill activity, and the other will utilize a community skating rink. We really want to promote sharing the skating rinks in town and using them for hockey but also learning how to skate and for young families and everyone else to use too. We are happy to do that with Pembina again." Dates will be announced later this fall.

NOTICE OF DECISION

The following development permits have been conditionally approved under the provisions of the Land Use Bylaw

DEVELOPMENT PERMIT APPLICATION	LOCATION	PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT	DECISION	DATE OF DECISION
15-042-2024	PT. NW 18-59-11-W5M Lot 12 Block 2 Plan 062-6222	Variations: accessory building prior to primary dwelling & side yard setback from 19 ft to 12 ft	APPROVED with conditions	21-Aug-24

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 pm, September 11, 2024.**

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



DAVE KUSCH
Mayor
Councillor for Anselmo
Division 1
dave.kusch@woodlands.ab.ca
Phone: 780-778-9337



JOHN BURROWS
Councillor for Whitecourt West
Division 2
john.burrows@woodlands.ab.ca
Phone: 780-778-4747



ALAN DEANE
Councillor for Whitecourt
Central Division 3
alan.deane@woodlands.ab.ca
Phone: 780-778-0804



JEREMY WILHELM
Councillor for
Whitecourt East Division 4
jeremy.wilhelm@woodlands.ab.ca
Phone: 780-778-6554



BRUCE PRESTIDGE
Councillor for Blue Ridge
Division 5
bruce.prestidge@woodlands.ab.ca
Phone: 780-778-3917



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



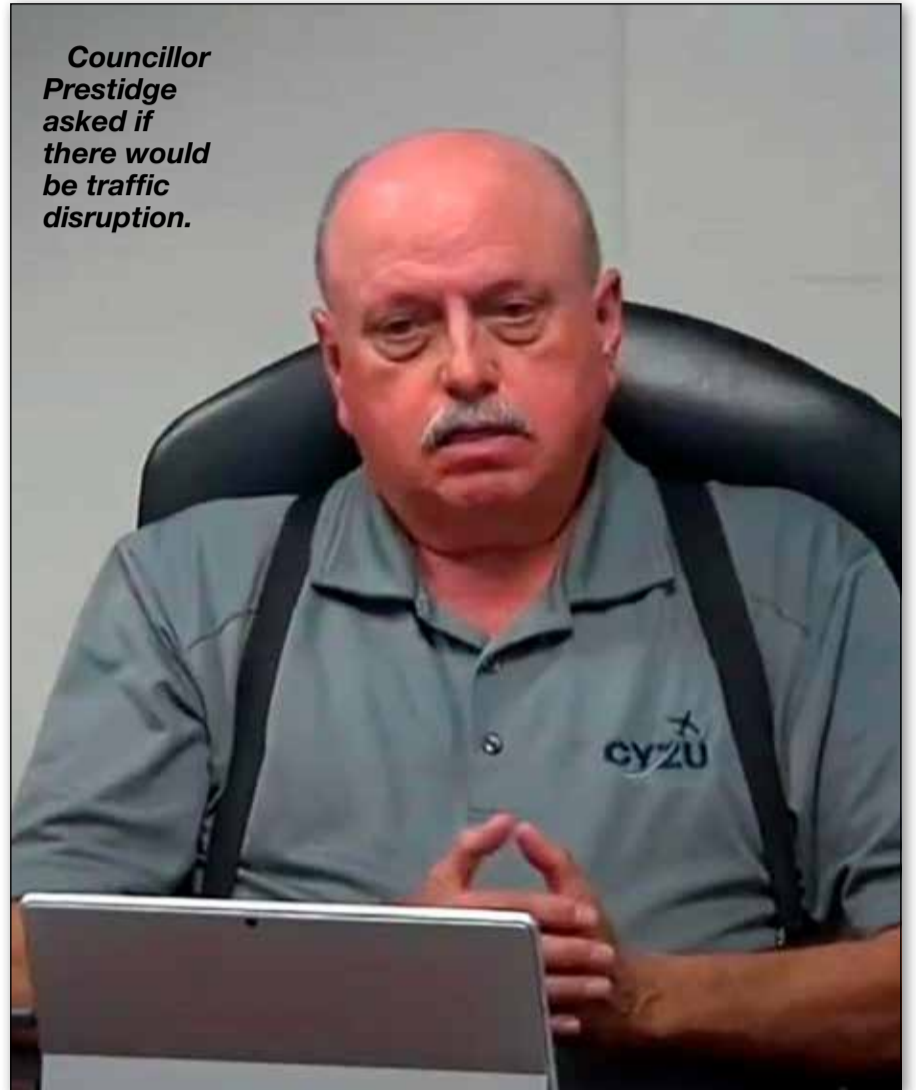
DEVIN WILLIAMS
Councillor for Fort Assiniboine
Times Division 7
devin.williams@woodlands.ab.ca
Phone: 780-305-1825



Culverts in crucial condition raise concern in the County



Councillor Deane wanted clarification on the funding.



Councillor Prestidge asked if there would be traffic disruption.

Several culverts in Woodlands County need immediate attention. A recent discovery of collapsed or nearly collapsed sections were found on four roads.

By Serena Lapointe

Six culverts in Woodlands County were recently discovered to be in critical condition posing a risk of future road closures or the need for expansive emergency work should they not be dealt with soon. During a recent Woodlands County Council meeting, Jeff Zhang, Director of Infrastructure Services, explained that immediate replacement was necessary.

"They have deteriorated to the point of caving in," he said. "When culverts have deteriorated and show signs of collapse, they need to be replaced to ensure safe passage of the travelling public and avoid major emergency reconstruction costs, should they cause further damages," Zhang explained.

He said staff are actively monitoring the situation in case further damage occurs. The replacement costs for the six culverts range from \$100,000 to \$180,000, and Zhang said the total cost of \$750,000 could come from the 2025 Capital Program, of

which discussions will start in the fall. "All of these six culverts are recommended to be replaced in frozen conditions, likely in 2025, using a trenchless installation method due to the traffic volume on the road or pavement structure or high fill situation," he explained further.

The six culverts include two on the Old Blue Ridge Highway, east of Trestle Road. One had already collapsed, while the other had "imminent risk" for collapse. The suggestion for both was to be updated to a 50m long, 800mm diameter culvert, which is an upgrade for both as one currently is 22m long, 800mm diameter, and the other is a bit smaller, 16m long and 750mm diameter. The repair for both culverts is approximately \$110,000 each.

Another pair of culverts are on Range Road 121, north of Township Road 590. Ends for both had caved in, as shown in the agenda package. Repair costs for these were estimated at

\$100,000 each and are smaller than the two previous culverts. The existing structures are 30m and 38m long and 600mm in diameter. The proposed upgrade for both was to make them 45m long and 800mm in diameter.

The final two culverts in disrepair are on Range Road 123, north of Township Road 563, and Range Road 120, north of Township Road 590. These two were the most expensive to fix as they are more significant in size. The one on RR123 is estimated to cost \$150,000, replacing the existing 30m long, 1200mm culvert with a 50m long, 1200mm culvert.

The one on RR120 had the highest cost, estimated at \$180,000. The existing structure (70m long, 1000mm diameter culvert) was proposed to be replaced with a culvert of the same size, unlike the rest which saw sizing changes.

Zhang explained that they needed to take regulatory steps first. "Culverts can be fish-bearing. There-

fore, it is necessary to perform environmental work to remain compliant with federal and provincial regulations prior to construction." The cost for the needed environmental work was \$50,000. Zhang requested that it come from the 2024 Capital Surplus.

Councillor Alan Deane agreed that the culverts needed attention but was cautious about planning a project using next year's dollars. "If motions one and two proceed and then there was some more emergent draw on the capital budget for 2025, would that extend for another year or two years if we decided that we needed to delay this because of something that was going on budget-wise?"

Zhang responded that the current ask from the administration was to spend \$50,000, not the full \$750,000. He said the second motion placed the conversation in the 2025 budget deliberations. "We want to have a more comprehensive discussion at budget (time) to see what other projects we

may have in terms of competing priorities. It will have to be a decision at that time, but my current thinking is that these six culverts are not going to last. When the culvert is deteriorated to the point of caving in, that's the end of it."

Councillor Deane understood that the culverts were a pressing matter. However, he asked for further clarification on what would happen if a different project popped up and needed to be dealt with first. "If we commit \$50,000 in funds to proceed with the environmental study process, and we get approvals, and then during budget discussions, we decide to push this off for a year, will those approvals from the environmental services carry over, if we decided to do the project in 2026 or 2027?" Zhang said that environmental services/studies don't usually have immediate timelines. "We should be ok there. But I don't think these culverts can last another year."

Councillor Peter Kuelken applauded the

administration for being proactive. "This is the kind of stuff that I think we need to go into budget deliberations with because we have never had this. I want to say thank you very much for doing that and for being proactive." He credited a switch to asset management as capturing the culvert issues.

Councillor Bruce Prestidge asked about road access once the projects began in 2025. "You said these are trenchless, so you're going to bore under the road to replace the culvert?" Zhang said yes. "So, there's no disruption on the road at all," further queried Prestidge. "The impact on the traffic will be minimal," responded Zhang.

Woodlands County Council approved spending \$50,000 for environmental services. The group also voted to approve \$750,000 in the 2025 Capital Budget for the identified urgent culvert replacements. Once greenlit, the culvert work can be expected early next year.



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Whitecourt Town Council updates

The Town of Whitecourt is preparing for the 2025 budget, and has scheduled:

- The 2025 Budget Public Input Session for Monday, September 23, 2024 at 4:00pm;
- A Special Meeting of Council for Monday, October 7, 2024 at 4:00pm.

Whitecourt Town Council has allocated \$10,000 to each of the following local organizations as part of the 2024 Vitalization Grant Program:

- Empowering Citizens for Health and Opportunities Society;
- 582334 Alberta Ltd. (The Garage Brew-house & Pub);
- 2506228 Alberta Ltd. (The Ritz).

The program offers businesses located in the downtown area and along the Highway 43 corridor up to \$10,000 to enhance their business or property to meet the town's architectural theme of stone and wood. Combined, the three organizations are spending over \$300,000 to enhance the façade and appeal of their storefronts.

Whitecourt recently received funding from the Forest Resource Improvement Association of Alberta (FRIAA) to compete a community fireguard plan. The Plan is nearing completion, and Whitecourt will be applying to FRIAA to assist with the construction of fireguards in high-risk areas of the community.

The Whitecourt Indigenous Friends Society is hosting a National Truth & Reconciliation/Orange Shirt Day event in Festival Park on Monday, September 30. Reminders of the road closures will be posted closer to the event date.

35 Street from 34 Avenue to 35 Avenue (in the Hilltop Industrial Park) will be temporarily closed on August 24 from 8:00am to 4:00pm to accommodate the Ralcomm Whitecourt Car Show.

National Coaches Appreciation Week is September 16 to 22, 2024. Community members are encouraged to submit nominations for local coaches as part of the recognition event.

Council has recognized September 23 to 29, 2024 as Rail Safety Week.

The decision on the Judicial Review of the Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework (ICF) Arbitration award for Whitecourt and Woodlands County was released on June 27, 2024. Whitecourt Town Council has directed Administration to work with Woodlands County to finalize the ICF Agreement between the two municipalities for adoption.

Kay (Kataryna) Brunet

April 20, 1931 – August 18, 2024

It is with deep sorrow that we announce the passing of our dear mother Kay Brunet on Sunday, August 18, 2024, in Whitecourt at the age of 93 years.

Kay will lovingly be remembered by her children, Donna (Hank), Bonnie (Dean), Keith, and Jim (Becky); grandchildren, Jackie (Romain), Steven (Kristin), Chad (Meagan), Kimberly (Phillip), Amanda, Michelle (Trahan), Daniel (Meghan), Cloud, Melissa, and Kristie (Mitch); 21 great-grandchildren, 4 great-great-grandchildren as well as a large extended family and many close friends.

Mom was predeceased by our Dad, John Brunet; her son, Bob; parents, Anna Marie and Niketa Malegus; siblings, John, Josie, Peter, Nick, Mike, Sam, and Olga.

She was a strong, hard-working, kind, gentle and loving woman who enjoyed the simple things in life. She lived with no regrets, cherished her family, was devoted to them and they to her. Everyone stayed connected to her, seeking her words of wisdom, her advice and her amazing hugs to the very end.

Mom was never one to sit idle for long, she stayed busy with cross-stitch, crochet, embroidery, shuffleboard, gardening, baking, and canning, she also loved the outdoors fishing and hunting. Mom loved playing cards, especially crib!

The friendships she gathered throughout her life were very special to her, the void she will leave in the hearts of all who had the good fortune to know her will be felt for many years to come but the memories created will never be forgotten.

The family would like to thank the nurses and staff at The Christenson Manor for their kind and compassionate care of Mom during her stay.

Also, our gratitude to Dr. Ayo Mustapha for his excellent care, and special thanks to Pastor Clayton and Angela Plouffe for their visits.

Mom, you left this world a better place because you were in it.

Until we meet again.

In lieu of flowers a donation in Kay's name can be made to the Heart and Stroke Foundation or to the Friends of Whitecourt Society (for the Sagitawah Hospice).

A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, August 31, 2024 at 1:00 p.m. at the Whitecourt Senior Circle, 5212 50 St. There will be a private family interment at the Shining Banks Cemetery following the reception. Relatives and friends are invited to return to Whitecourt Seniors Circle for a Potluck meal at 6:00 p.m. followed by a crib tournament and games all evening long.

Condolences may be sent to www.affinityfuneralservice.ca.

Funeral Arrangements in the care of Terri Shtimenosky at:

780.778.3330

Affinity Funeral Service #1 4105 41st Avenue, Whitecourt, Alberta



Nic Bourgeois

August 30, 1991 – December 5, 2022

33 years ago, you came into this world we did not know then how short your stay would be but so very grateful for the years we had you.

Your attitude, work ethic, joy for life and seeing you live your life full of adventures love and sometimes maybe a bit too much fun brought light and joy not only into our lives but so many others.

I know you are watching over your three girls the most – we all miss you more than words can say. Your laugh, the look on your face when you were laughing. Your hugs, we were so lucky to get so many when we could they really were the best hugs!

You are always missed, loved so very much and will forever live on with your family and so many friends down here - till we meet again keep shining your light on us.

Sending hugs to you today and every day; Love Ness, Nova and Stella, your mama and dad, big sister Nina and Tim, big brother Steven and Kay, bonus mom and dad and bonus little sisters Amiela and Macey, all your nieces and nephews and the rest of your family and friends that miss you as much as we do.




Woodlands County Council recap

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

Collin Harvey, AltaLink Municipal and Community Relations Manager, shared information of its Public Safety Power Shutoff public awareness campaign. As part of its Wildfire Mitigation Plan, AltaLink may shut off power to impacted power lines during extreme or dangerous weather conditions as a last-resort preventative measure. If a shutoff is required, AltaLink will provide advanced notice to the public alerting them of the shutoff as well as providing updates on when the public could expect power to be restored. For more information, visit the Wildfire Safety page on the AltaLink website.

Council passed By-

laws 617-24 and 618-24, borrowing bylaws for West and East Mountain Road Resurfacing, respectively. The estimated cost for the West Mountain Road resurfacing is \$1,850,000 and \$2,400,000 for the East Mountain Road resurfacing. A borrowing bylaw must be passed to fund the projects by debenture. Both projects are planned for 2025 to coincide with provincial highway projects in the area bringing a cost savings to the County.

Council approved \$50,000 to fund environmental services required to replace six culverts identified as being in critical condition. The total cost of replacement is estimated at \$750,000 which was moved to the 2025 Capital Budget discussions. As part of the asset manage-

ment process, the condition of the culverts throughout the County was assessed in 2022 and 2023 with those in critical condition are being placed on a high priority. Due to the financial constraints of the past five years, culvert maintenance was unable to extend the lifetime of these culverts and replacement is required to avoid future road closures and emergency repairs.

Human Edge Executive Search Consultants have been selected to recruit a new Woodlands County Chief Administrative Officer. Council and Gordon Frank who was CAO at Woodlands County since 2019, have parted ways. Interim CAOs Paul Benedetto and Rod Hawken are jointly overseeing the role at the County as the future senior leader is recruited to take the

municipality into its next chapter.

Per the CAO's Report, Administration has started a service level review which will aid in fiscal management and corporate planning. The review will outline current organizational capacity and resource con-

straints involved in delivering the current level of service.

Upcoming scheduled meetings:

- 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.

PUBLIC NOTICE

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NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO BE FILED FOR APPROVAL OF THE NATURAL GAS DISTRIBUTION FRANCHISE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWN OF WHITECOURT AND ATCO GAS AND PIPELINES LTD.

Application summary

The Alberta Utilities Commission expects to receive an application from ATCO Gas and Pipelines Ltd. to approve the existing current and valid natural gas distribution franchise agreement with the Town of Whitecourt. This application for approval is required due to changes made by the *Utilities Affordability Statutes Amendment Act, 2024*, to various statutes governing franchise agreements.

The current franchise agreement, which took effect in January of 2018, grants ATCO Gas and Pipelines Ltd. the exclusive right to deliver natural gas to the residents of Whitecourt for approximately ten years.

No changes to the franchise agreement or to the franchise fee rate rider percentage are being made as part of this application. The franchise fee rate rider percentage will remain at its current rate, which is 33.55%. Including linear taxes, the resulting average monthly franchise fee for an average residential customer will remain the same at approximately \$16.37. The franchise fee is calculated based on distribution charges. An average residential customer uses about 105 gigajoules per year.

You may send your concerns about, objections to, or support for the application in writing to the Town of Whitecourt or to ATCO Gas and Pipelines Ltd. on or before **September 11, 2024** at:

Town of Whitecourt
Attn: Judy Barney, Director of Corporate Services
Box 509, 5004 52 Avenue, Whitecourt AB T7S 1N6
Phone: 780-778-2273
Email: judybarney@whitecourt.ca

ATCO Gas and Pipelines Ltd.
Attn: Franchise Agreement Coordinator
5302 Forand Street S.W. Calgary, Alberta, T3E 8B4
Phone: 310-5678 or 1-888-511-7550
Email: franchisecoordinatorgas@atco.com

Any submissions received, unless you request otherwise, will be part of the application submitted and will become part of the public record.

For more information on franchises or to receive a copy of the franchise agreement please contact either the Town of Whitecourt or ATCO Gas and Pipelines Ltd. at the addresses listed above.

For more information:

For more information about the AUC or its approval process associated with franchise applications, please contact the AUC directly at 310-4AUC or at info@auc.ab.ca.

The Alberta Utilities Commission is an independent, quasi-judicial regulatory body responsible for making decisions about utility-related applications.

Issued on August 22, 2024.

Alberta Utilities Commission

Unreserved Real Estate Auction for the Estate of James Hengen October 4th - 7th, 2024 - Peers, AB



Selling 4 Deeded Quarters Being the NE 20-55-14 W5M - 154.47 Acres M/L, NW 21-55-14 W5M - 157.99 Acres M/L, SW 21-55-14 W5M - 159.97 Acres M/L, SE 20-55-14 W5M - 159.97 Acres M/L

Plus 2 Grazing Lease Quarters
Grazing Lease GRL38970
(3 Legals but Selling as 1 Lease 242 Acres M/L)
& Grazing Lease GRL38308 (159 Acres M/L)

Open Houses: Saturday Sept 7th & Sunday Sept 15, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Real Estate Transactions are being Handled by Morrison Realty - Kim Hughes (403) 704-3141 & Allen Olson (403) 783-0556

Real Estate Terms & Conditions: 10 % Down on Sale Day. Balance & Possession on or before November 7th, 2024. If Balance is NOT RECEIVED by November 7th, 2024 the Deposit will be Forfeited as Liquidation Damages. All measurements are approximate and need to be verified by the purchaser.



Allen B. Olson Auction Service Ltd.

1-855-783-0556 (Toll Free) - (403) 843-2747 Rimbey Office
780-208-2508 East Central Office

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Email: abolson@telusplanet.net - Homepage: www.allenolsonauction.com

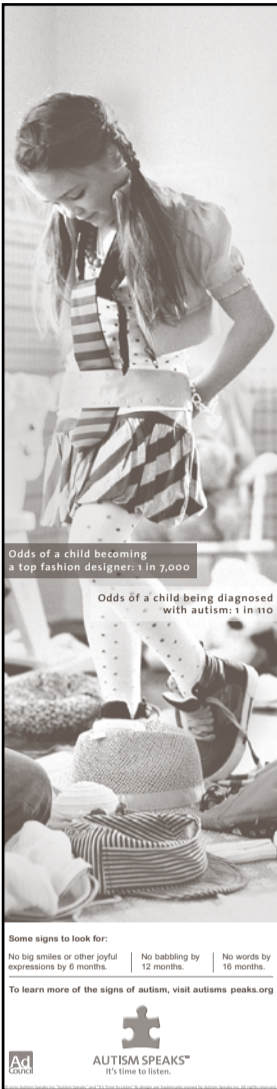
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A look at the local weather

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



Wed., Aug. 28
Light rain
20%
17°C
9°C
NW 28 km/h
1-3mm



Thu., Aug. 29
Mainly sunny
20%
22°C
11°C
W 11 km/h
-



Fri., Aug. 30
Mainly sunny
20%
20°C
9°C
W 13 km/h
-



Sat., Aug. 31
Mainly sunny
30%
20°C
10°C
NW 12 km/h
-



Sun., Sep. 01
Sunny
10%
21°C
10°C
SE 6 km/h
-

Money Matters

One Canadian Dollar = **0.73 US Dollar** at an exchange rate of **0.7394** (using nominal rate).



Dollar Values as of August 28, 2024

Derailed: Major disruptions to supply chains due to rail work stoppage

By ATB Financial's Economics & Research Team

COVID was a powerful reminder of how interconnected our world is. If you can't get computer chips from Taiwan, you can't build cars. If you can't get bike components when there's a biking boom, shortages ensue.

In the post-pandemic world, we have new reminders. Russia's invasion of Ukraine pushed up food and energy prices; conflict in the Middle East curtailed shipments via the Red Sea; the strike at the Port of Vancouver sharply reduced Canada's trade with Asia last summer.

Now a simultaneous labour stoppage, beginning at 12:01 on August 22, has ground to a halt the two main rail lines in Canada (CN and CPKC).

About \$380 billion of goods and services are transported by rail annually in Canada ac-

cording to the Railway Association of Canada, or about \$1 billion daily. This includes large shipments of food, fuel, wood, chemicals such as fertilizer and propane, and inter-modal containers full of a wide variety of goods.

In Alberta, international merchandise exports alone (i.e. excluding inter-provincial shipments) totaled \$20.2 billion by

rail in 2023 or about 12% of the province's total international exports. That represents \$55 million per day and more than any other mode except pipelines. But consider that most of Alberta's exports flow via pipeline. Removing the 'other' category (mainly pipelines), the share was more than one-third. Further, much of Alberta's exports are moved by

rail to the Canadian ports and transported by water. Last year, \$17.9 billion in Alberta's international exports were transported via ship—but that doesn't happen unless these goods find their way to the ports.

As shown below, the value of rail exports exceeds what is shipped by road, and there are both physical and labour constraints to switching modes.

Rail shipments from Alberta to all destinations in 2022 in tonnes



Source: Statistics Canada Table 23-10-0062-01 and ATB Economics

HELP WANTED

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

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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.
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



Ralcomm Car Show


On Saturday, Ralcomm held its Annual Classic Car Show, which helps raise money for the Whitecourt Cancer and Wellness Society while bringing together vehicle enthusiasts for a day of comradery. The road in front of Ralcomm's storefront in the industrial area was blocked off to allow participants to line their vehicles up on display. From young at heart, the event brought out vehicle owners of all ages, both local and visiting, from old-school muscle and charm to new-age sleekness and shine. Carson Basaraba's eye-catching yellow 1939 Chevrolet Master 85 Coupe took home this year's Best in Show award. Though the rain lowered attendees and participant numbers, a large group stuck it out, ignored the mainly light rain, popped open their umbrellas and enjoyed the festivities.



- ❶ Carson's Best in Show.
- ❷ Little red corvette.
- ❸ A Mach1 Mustang.
- ❹ Oma and Opa's Chevy.
- ❺ Rain didn't keep people from visiting.




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.




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 A locally owned and family operated newspaper serving Whitecourt

PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY

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 Email: wctpress@telus.net



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