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Vol. 15 - Issue 28 | Wednesday, July 22, 2026

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Pushing past mental and physical obstacles



After years of hard work and determination, one local man has reached a milestone in his martial arts journey, putting him in a small category of Canadians who have achieved it. Bill Priest recently tested for his taekwondo black belt promotion and proved that age is nothing but a number. Pictured is Priest flying through a board with a solid side kick. See story page 2.



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The Press

Pushing past mental and physical obstacles

Local athlete proves that age is just a number and that determination matters most

| By Serena Lapointe

For area resident Bill Priest, age is nothing but a number. At 54, when his son, then a hockey player in minor hockey in Fox Creek, joined a community pop-up location for Whitecourt Taekwondo, he couldn't have imagined where that journey would lead him and the experiences he would gain along the way.

"My wife wanted Jordan to do something else after the hockey season ended, and she suggested taekwondo. Tara Rennie had started up a club in Fox Creek, and so he joined. After a few months of watching him do it, I ended up joining. That was September of 2011," explained Priest.

When the family ended up moving to Whitecourt, the pair joined the Whitecourt club and continued working through the belts. Jordan made it to green belt before life took him from high school and into post-secondary. "Now he's got a good career," said Priest. Having first joined to be with his son, Priest found community in the martial art and kept it up.

"I like the workout, the students, the instructing, and the whole martial arts community. I also really like the quality of the people who are involved in the taekwondo organization. It's a pleasant organization to be involved in. And I like that the challenge is always there. You can never age yourself out. You can start at a young age or at an old age."

Somewhere around 2018, Priest took a break from the sport and

felt the pull to return last fall. "I think I ran into Bill somewhere, and I was saying that it sure would be nice for him to come back to the club. I wasn't sure if that would work out for him, but I was really happy when it did," said Master Jim Rennie, seventh-degree black belt and owner of Whitecourt Taekwondo.

"That's one of the blessings of being involved in taekwondo, that you can leave for whatever reason and you can come back and be welcomed back. It's special, because you

don't get that a lot," said Priest, who added that he had to "shake off some rusty scales" after his seven-year hiatus.

On June 13, along with a dozen or so other athletes, Priest made history for the Whitecourt Taekwondo Club by testing for his black belt. And it wasn't just any black belt either. "Bill is the oldest person that we've ever tested for a black belt in 47 years of Whitecourt Taekwondo. I'm really proud of that. He's almost at his 70th birthday. Not only did he achieve his black belt,

but it was his fourth-degree black belt. His 4th Dan," explained Master Rennie.

For Priest, the milestone reminded him that his age isn't something that can hold him back. "Every time a birthday comes around, I'm thinking, that number doesn't fit. That's way more than what I am. Taekwondo, with its challenges and memory work, keeps you young, and you realize that you can still get out there and work with and help the younger people. I still feel like I'm in that age group with them," he

smiled.

As students move through the coloured belt levels, the wait time between tests is fairly short, like a few months, but once the black belt level is reached, the wait is longer, and the time between belt tests grows as levels are reached. Someone who earns their first-degree black belt must wait a minimum of two years to test for their second-degree black belt, and once they do, they must wait three more years before they can test for their third-degree black belt. It continues in that pattern, making higher belts a significant test of endurance and patience to achieve.

Given the timelines, Canadians within the circle of 4+ degrees are not a huge group, so being part of it is no small feat. "Canada has 67,000 black belts, of which 1,700 made it to their 4th degree black belt," explained Master Rennie. Priest's next promotion will not come for four years, but at that point, he would be within an even smaller group, which currently sits at only 764 Canadians who have made it to their fifth-degree black belt. "Four years will go by quickly," smiled Priest. Clearly, his eyes are already on the next prize, which would also come with the title of master, making it that much sweeter.

Getting to be part of Priest's journey has been special for Master Rennie, impacting him and helping him push through his own physical challenges. "I have many mentors, and they're in all different countries, and they have higher degrees

than I. It would be unusual to have a mentor who's a lower belt than yourself, but Bill's an inspirational guy, and he's shown me how you can continue to enjoy martial arts as your body is resisting and to keep pushing and not give up. If Bill can do it, so can you."

Priest said getting to work with the younger students has given him a sense of satisfaction, and it's something he really enjoys. Master Rennie agreed and said that Priest's impact isn't just found in teaching physical movements but also in his attitude. "One time, I saw Bill stop a young student. We were shaking hands to congratulate them after a belt test, and he stopped them and said, make sure you look into the eyes whenever you shake someone's hand. And it was just the way that young person clearly took those words of wisdom. That is impactful."

Something else that the pair have thanks to the sport is a friendship neither would take for granted. "You develop friendships through this sport. I think people imagine that when they graduate, they will be friends forever with their high school friends, but it doesn't work that way for the most part. But when you sweat together, and you work hard together and conquer physical fears and extreme challenges, you've got brothers and sisters as you have nowhere else," said Master Rennie. Priest smiled in agreement. "Taekwondo is a lifelong thing for me now. I'll stick with it as long as I can. It's in my blood." Congratulations, Bill!



A neat perspective as Priest tests in front of a picture of himself smashing bricks.

Community newspapers face new reality as flyer industry shifts

| By Valerie Winger

Community newspapers across Canada are facing one of the biggest changes to their business model in decades as the traditional flyer distribution system moves away from local publications.

The recent announcement that the Free Press Community Review in Winnipeg will cease publication has raised concerns throughout the newspaper industry about the challenges facing weekly newspapers across the country.

The closure follows a major shift by TC Transcontinental, which has expanded its Raddar flyer distribution platform. Instead of many flyers being delivered through community newspapers, flyers are now being bundled and delivered directly to households through Canada Post.

For many community newspapers, flyer revenue was much more than an advertising opportunity. It helped support the cost of printing and delivering newspapers each week and played an important role in keeping many free publications operating.

FP Newspapers, publisher of the Winnipeg

Free Press, said its flyer business declined rapidly following the change and announced that the Community Review would publish its final edition. The company also said the transition would affect delivery contractors and employees.

The impact is being felt across the country.

Postmedia has also announced it is leaving the flyer distribution business in Canada, a decision that will affect hundreds of distribution jobs. The company said the change reflects shifting consumer habits and changes in the media landscape.

For decades, many free community newspapers relied on a familiar model. Newspapers were printed, delivered to local households and supported by advertising revenue, including flyers from major retailers.

That model allowed many publishers to provide free newspapers while covering the costs of production and distribution.

The loss of flyer revenue, combined with rising printing costs and changes in advertising, has forced publishers to look at new ways of operating. News Media Canada has warned that

the loss of flyer revenue could create additional financial pressure for community newspapers and could lead to further job losses in the industry.

Across Canada, many newspapers are now looking at a combination of print and digital options, including online news, email newsletters and digital editions.

The transition will not be easy for many publishers, but community newspapers continue to adapt to changes in how readers and advertisers connect.

The future of local newspapers may look different than it has in the past, but the goal remains the same, continuing to provide local information to the communities they serve.

The challenges facing community newspapers are not new. Across Canada, hundreds of local news outlets have closed over the past several years as publishers have faced rising costs, changing advertising patterns and shifts in how readers access news.

According to the Local News Research Project, 440 community newspapers had closed between 2008 and October 2025.

Be Prepared: Tornado safety tips for Alberta residents



By Haylee Winger

With Alberta experiencing an active severe weather season, including multiple tornado watches and warnings in recent weeks, emergency officials are reminding residents to be prepared before severe weather strikes. Environment and Climate Change Canada has issued tornado watches and warnings for parts of central and northern Alberta as powerful thunderstorm systems have moved across the province.

According to the Government of Canada, tornadoes have been recorded in every province and territory, although they occur most frequently in southern Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec and western New Brunswick. While tornadoes can form quickly, they are often associated with severe thunderstorms capable of producing damaging winds, large hail and heavy rainfall.

Emergency officials recommend preparing an emergency kit with essentials such as drinking water, non-perishable food, medications, flashlights, batteries and a battery-powered radio. Families are also encouraged to develop a household emergency plan that considers the needs of children, older

adults, pets and anyone requiring additional medical or mobility support.

Staying informed is another important step in tornado preparedness. Residents are encouraged to monitor Environment and Climate Change Canada weather alerts, use the WeatherCAN app and ensure their mobile devices are compatible with Canada's Alert Ready emergency notification system.

Recognizing the warning signs of a tornado can also provide valuable time to seek shelter. According to the Government of Canada, severe thunderstorms with frequent lightning, unusually dark or greenish skies, a loud roaring or whistling sound, and the appearance of a funnel cloud may all indicate that a tornado is developing.

If a tornado warning is issued or a tornado is spotted, the safest place to be is in a basement or the lowest level of a sturdy building, preferably in an interior room away from windows. Those without access to a basement should move to the most central room on the lowest floor and protect their head and neck from flying debris. Officials advise against opening windows or using elevators during severe weather.

Anyone caught outdoors should move inside as quickly as pos-

sible. If no building is available, the Government of Canada recommends seeking shelter in a low-lying area, such as a ditch, while protecting the head and remaining alert for rising water. Taking shelter beneath bridges or highway overpasses is not recommended, as winds can become stronger and debris can accumulate in those locations.

Drivers are also urged not to try to outrun a tornado. If possible, motorists should seek shelter in a sturdy building. If no safe structure is nearby, they should pull well off the roadway, activate their hazard lights and, if it is safe to do so, move to a low-lying area away from the vehicle while protecting themselves from flying debris.

Even after a tornado has passed, hazards may remain. Residents should continue monitoring weather alerts, avoid damaged buildings until they have been deemed safe, stay at least 10 metres away from downed power lines and follow directions from local emergency officials.

As Alberta moves through the peak of its severe weather season, emergency officials encourage residents to remain weather aware, have an emergency plan in place and be prepared to act quickly if tornado watches or warnings are issued.

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DISCRETIONARY USE DEVELOPMENT PERMIT APPLICATION

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

If you have any comment or concern regarding this proposal you may provide a written statement via email to planning@woodlands.ab.ca prior to **4:30 p.m., July 29, 2026**. The Development Authority will be making a decision on the following development permit applications following this deadline.

Legal Description	Application Number	PROPOSED USE
NE 4-59-10 W5M	26-DP-063	Contractor Services, Transport

Information regarding this application may be obtained by inquiring prior to **4:30 p.m., July 29, 2026**.

Contact: planning@woodlands.ab.ca
Woodlands County, Box 60, #1 Woodlands Lane, Whitecourt
AB T7S 1N3, Telephone: 780-778-8400, Toll-Free: 1-888-870-6315



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Starting July 6, 2026, if your Jewellery is in need of repair, or you need a battery for your watch, you can drop it off with our sales associates who will gladly take care of it for you. We can be found through the side entrance of the Whitecourt and District Chamber of Commerce building at **4907 – 52nd Avenue in Whitecourt Unit #7.** Monday – Friday 11am-3pm

You can also follow us on our Facebook page (**facebook.com/cjewellers**) for updated news as our renovation progresses.

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**ANC Timber Ltd.
2026 HERBICIDE APPLICATION PROJECT**

Please be advised that ANC Timber Ltd. is looking for input on their upcoming herbicide application program for 2026. ANC Timber Ltd. will be conducting both aerial and ground herbicide application programs between August 15th and September 15th, 2026. The application will treat up 1083 hectares of existing cutover area. The applications will be in portions of:

Township	Ranges	Meridian
48	14	W5M
49	13, 14	W5M
50	13	W5M
58	21, 25	W5M
60	23, 24	W5M
61	23	W5M
62	24	W5M
63	23, 24	W5M

Both the aerial and ground herbicide applications will be done using VisionMax® silviculture herbicide. The purpose of the applications is to control grass and shrub species that are limiting the survival chances of our planted seedlings on recent harvested areas. Access to all areas will be posted with signs upon completion and all applications will be done in accordance with Alberta Agriculture and Forestry regulations and the Environmental Code of Practice for Pesticides. For more information, please contact an ANC Timber Ltd. representative at (780) 778-7948 or visit ANC's website at <https://www.albertanewsprint.com/woodlands/>.

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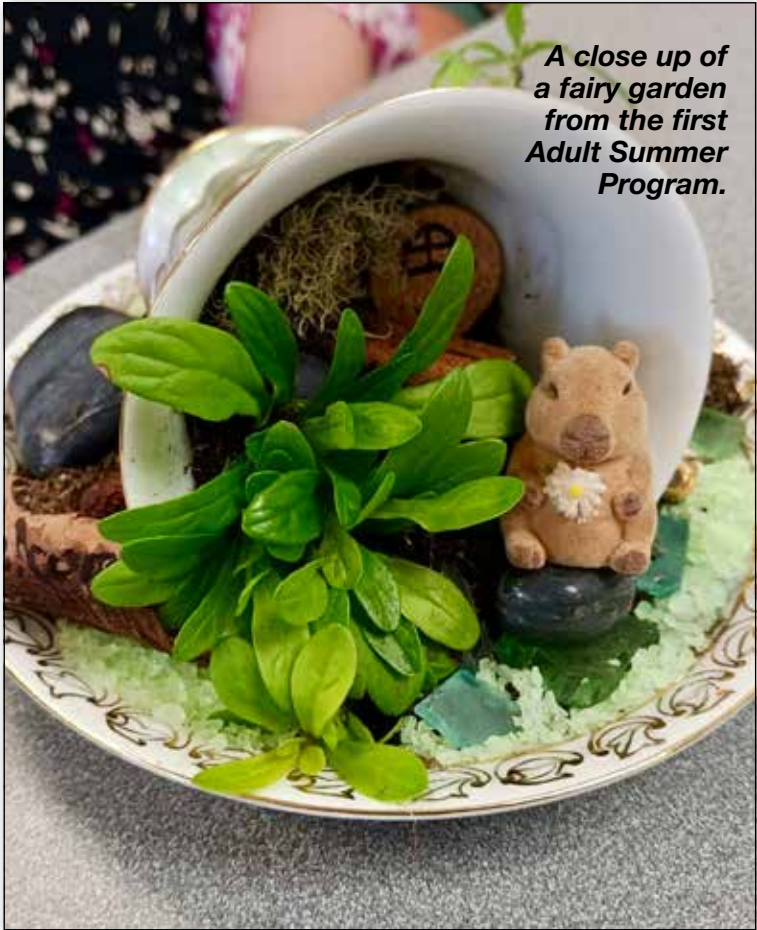
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Demand continues to grow for programming at the Whitecourt Library



A close up of a fairy garden from the first Adult Summer Program.



Whitecourt Public Library photos

A full program room of adults learning together and having fun.

The Whitecourt & District Public Library continues to see growing demand for its programs, and it's not just for the kids either. The adult programs regularly have waitlists, and an upcoming new space will allow for growth to meet demand.

| By Serena Lapointe

During a recent Woodlands County Council meeting, Nancy Keough, Director of the Whitecourt & District Public Library, provided elected officials with a current snapshot of the library, including its programming and the continually growing popularity they have experienced.

"The library serves residents at each stage of their life, beginning at birth to the end of life. They all have different and diverse needs. We provide safe, inclusive, comfortable, and cost-free space and experiences that advance quality of life, access to information, and community connection, aligning with Woodlands County's objective of regional collaboration. One moment. One program. One service at a time," began Keough, thanking Woodlands County for its support and continued investment.

For Keough, libraries have been part of her personal fabric for

years, having worked in small, medium-sized, and large-scale libraries, both in Canada and the USA. "I'm a little bit passionate about the work that we do in communities. I believe that good libraries build collections, great libraries provide programming, and exceptional libraries create community through access and experiences. I want to thank you for being part of that story," she smiled.

The three full-time, two part-time and four casual staff at the library work together to provide top-tier programming that is free and inclusive, and perhaps the best news is that both children and adults can and do enjoy it. One of the growing groups is the teens and tweens category. Keough explained that due to demand, they have added a second monthly get-together.

She said that one of the wonderful things about libraries is that they can pivot as community needs arise.

"We get to serve the community in the way that it needs. We can turn direction on a dime, unless of course we are under specific grant funding, but in general, it's really rare to find an organization that has that adaptability and ability to change and move direction (like a library). Obviously, we plan ahead and have a strategic plan, but we're really not stuck in a corner if something's not working," she explained, or in this case, is working really well and needs to expand.

By increasing to two nights a month, the teens and tweens get more face time with each other, but also with staff. "It's an opportunity for them to connect with each other, connect with our staff as good role models and to try something new, whether that is a science experiment or a craft," said Keough.

Another program that keeps growing is the After-School Program. The current schedule

provides three days a week, during the school year, from Tuesday to Thursday, where kids can pop in, do a craft or something else fun, from 3:30 to 5:00, in a safe, welcoming environment.

Keough explained that demand exists for the program to run Monday to Friday. "We are hoping to do that in the new space with increased staffing and space. We have one programming room in the current library that is in very high demand. So, if we utilize those five days a week for after-school at this time, we would not be able to provide programming for other age groups in the community."

The new library in the Canfor Culture and Events Centre, slated to open this fall, is roughly double the square footage of the current library, which would provide more space for programming, allowing staff to potentially run multiple programs at the same time without locking up the

only space available. The solo programming room at the current library is not only used by staff but is also used by community groups, further showing the need for more space. And it's not just the kids. Adults have also found out how awesome the library is, regularly taking part in programming, often resulting in waitlists.

In 2025, 67,950 people walked through the doors at the Whitecourt Library and just shy of 6,000 people attended one of the 451 in-person programs offered. "Over 50,000 physical items were checked out of the library, defeating the belief that reading is a fading form of education and entertainment. Naturally, people are coming into our building for a variety of uses, but those are physical items being checked out of our location," explained Keough.

She said the support offered through the library doesn't stop at materials and pro-

gramming either. With a public Wi-Fi connection available, 2025 saw over 18,000 connections to it. Keough said it's not just about providing it; it's about how it is accessed and the support provided on site. "The numerous people that we serve at the public computers or on their own devices, whether that's with form completion and access, the statistics don't tell that whole part of the story. Same with the person on a health journey, who we just showed how to use ChatGPT to create a free personal nutrition plan and exercise plan. We break down boundaries, create space, and build community every day," she continued.

Keough said she is excited about the opportunity to bring more value to Woodlands County and Whitecourt residents next year by increasing program capacity and classes through additional staffing and increased space in the new library.

A look at the local weather		Wed., July 22	Thu., July 23	Fri., July 24	Sat., July 25	Sun., July 26
P.O.P. High Low Wind 24-Hr Rain / Snow		Mainly sunny	Mainly sunny	Chance of thunderstorm	Scattered showers	Mainly sunny
		40%	30%	40%	60%	10%
		26°C	27°C	24°C	24°C	24°C
		15°C	15°C	15°C	14°C	13°C
		S 5 km/h	SE 6 km/h	N 7 km/h	E 14 km/h	NW 24 km/h
		-	-	1-3mm	2-4mm	-

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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 **TEXT 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**

Putting a face on suicide



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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The Press

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PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY

Contact

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

Letter to the Editor policy

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



NGPS Board Audit Committee seeks two External Community Members:



Northern Gateway School Division's Board of Trustees is seeking two community members to serve on it's Audit Committee:

- one community member with financial expertise and business knowledge; and,
- one community member at large.

The term for these positions begins September 2026 and ends in October 2028. The primary role of the Audit Committee is to assist the Board of Trustees in fulfilling its duties related to governance and oversight. The Committee meets 2 times a year, plus ad hoc meetings as required. Compensation is consistent with current board rates.

Candidate Eligibility:

Applicants should have sufficient accounting, senior financial management or other relevant business experience to understand public sector accounting and auditing standards. The applicant must not be a current employee or officer of the NGPS board or of any other school board or school authority.

Submissions:

Qualified candidates interested in serving on the Audit Committee are invited to submit a letter of interest and resume by 4:00 PM on September 8, 2026 to:

Tamara Spong, Secretary Treasurer
Northern Gateway Public Schools, E: tamara.spong@ngps.ca

WOODLANDS COUNTY

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

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Check out our Business Directory for information and location on Woodlands County-based businesses!

Go to <https://woodlands.ab.ca/p/business-directory>, or scan the QR Code with your phone:



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It only takes a few minutes to be included in this helpful local resource - easily add it yourself!

Go to <https://woodlands.ab.ca/p/add-a-business>, or scan the QR Code with your phone:



AG PIONEER NOMINATIONS

Woodlands County Agriculture Services Board (ASB) would like to recognize individuals with a long-term commitment to agriculture - our Ag Pioneers!

Nominations are now being accepted for this prestigious award. Awards will be presented at the Annual Agriculture Services Supper.

- Please submit a nomination letter briefly outlining qualifications based on the following eligibility criteria:
- Nominees must have resided and actively farmed in Woodlands County for a minimum of thirty (30) years.
 - Nominees must be a minimum of 60 years of age.
 - Priority will be given to individuals who currently reside in Woodlands County.
 - Nominations will be accepted from family members, members of the public and Agriculture Services Board members. Individuals may also apply.

Nominations may be submitted by mail to:
Woodlands County, Box 33, Fort Assiniboine, AB. T0G 1A0, Attn: Manager, Ag Services

Or e-mail: agservices@woodlands.ab.ca

NOMINATION DEADLINE IS JULY 31, 2026

WOODLANDS COUNTY HAS EXCITING JOB OPPORTUNITIES!

- Economic Development Officer
- Fire Services Operations Coordinator

For more information and to apply, scan the QR Code, or go to: woodlands.ab.ca/p/careers

Local work. Good people. Let's talk.



WOODLANDS COUNTY BENEFITS PROGRAM

PROPERTY TAX REBATE: Starting July 1, 2026.
Property owners can apply to receive a flat rebate of \$150.00.

For full program details and forms, visit woodlands.ab.ca/p/benefits-program, or call Community Services at 780-778-8400.

ABOUT THE BENEFITS PROGRAM:
Woodlands County's Benefits Program helps eligible low-income, senior, or disabled residents by offering the following:

- Health-related travel cost reimbursement: \$0.50/km, up to \$300 per person, per year.
- Property tax rebate: \$150 flat rebate if you own your own home.
- Up to 3 free snowplow flags per residence.

YOUTH PROGRAM FINANCIAL SUPPORT!

Do you have a youth aged 4–18 who could use a little financial help to join a recreation, sports, art, or culture program?

Woodlands County's Youth Enrichment Subsidy (YES) can provide up to \$600 per year to help cover program costs – and it can be used for multiple programs!

IMPORTANT: Apply BEFORE starting the program.

More information and to apply, visit woodlands.ab.ca/p/yes-program, or call 780-778-8400.

Help your youth explore, create, and play!

HERITAGE DAY OFFICE CLOSURES & SERVICE INTERRUPTIONS:

Monday, August 3, both municipal offices will be closed.

They'll reopen Tuesday, August 4, for regular hours.

Fort Assiniboine garbage collection will be deferred to Tuesday, August 4.

RURAL BEAUTIFICATION NOMINATIONS

Woodlands County Agriculture Services Board (ASB) would like to recognize individuals who take pride in their property!

The Rural Beautification Awards recognize individuals who, through yard maintenance and property beautification, foster civic pride, environmental awareness, and municipal beautification.

Nominating someone is a great way to acknowledge the countless hours spent landscaping, maintaining, and enhancing a valued part of our County.

One agricultural and one non-agricultural recipient will be selected from each County Division. Awards will be presented at the Annual Agriculture Services Supper.

Nomination forms are available at both County offices and online at www.woodlands.ab.ca.

Nominations must include two photographs of the nominated property.

Submit your nomination forms:

Emailed to: agservices@woodlands.ab.ca Dropped off at either County office.

Or mailed to: Woodlands County, Box 33, Fort Assiniboine, AB. T0G 1A0 Attn: Manager, Ag Services

NOMINATION DEADLINE IS JULY 31, 2026



DAVE KUSCH
Reeve, Division 1 – Anselmo
dave.kusch@woodlands.ab.ca
780-778-9337



PATRICIA MACNEIL
Councillor, Division 2 -
Whitecourt West
patricia.macneil@woodlands.ab.ca
780-268-3000



ALAN DEANE
Councillor, Division 3 -
Whitecourt Central
alan.deane@woodlands.ab.ca
780-778-0894



KAREN ST. MARTIN
Councillor, Division 4 -
Whitecourt East
karen.stmartin@woodlands.ab.ca
780-778-0822



JENNA WRIGHT
Councillor, Division 5 -
Blue Ridge
jenna.wright@woodlands.ab.ca
780-779-6765



PETER KUELKEN
Councillor, Division 6 - Goose Lake /
Freeman River
peter.kuelken@woodlands.ab.ca
780-284-2425



BENNY WHITTEN
Councillor, Division 7 -
Fort Assiniboine / Timeau
benny.whitten@woodlands.ab.ca
780-305-4655



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Whitecourt Public Transit to launch express route



By Haylee Winger

Whitecourt Public Transit will introduce a new Express Route on Aug. 4, providing riders with faster connections to some of the community's busiest destinations while improving travel between the valley and hilltop areas. The new service is designed to reduce travel times by serving popular transit destinations and will replace the current peak-hour route.

Whitecourt's regular hourly loop will continue to operate as usual, providing service to all existing community bus stops throughout the day. Riders will be able to identify whether a bus is operating on the regular route or the Express Route by checking the electronic destination sign displayed on the front of the bus.

The new route follows a comprehensive review of Whitecourt's transit system completed last year by WATT

Consulting Group. The review evaluated the existing transit network, gathered feedback from frontline staff and transit users, examined bus stop locations and amenities, and explored opportunities to better meet the community's transportation needs.

Mayor Ray Hilts said the Express Route is one of several improvements aimed at enhancing Whitecourt's public transit system.

"With funding support from the Rural Transit Solutions Fund and the Canada Public Transit Fund, White-

court has been able to complete several infrastructure projects that improve accessibility and connectivity throughout the community," Hilts said. "In addition to the Express Route, residents will see upgrades to transit shelters and sidewalks at bus stop locations, and new buses are expected to arrive in early 2027."

Angela Mitchell, Manager of Family and Community Support Services, said the route was designed to better serve many of the system's regular users, including students.

"The Express Route will serve many of the youth who rely on public transit, as well as several of the busiest stops in our system," Mitchell said. "Launching the new service during the summer gives students and parents an opportunity to become familiar with the route before the start of the new school year."

In addition to the new route, the Town is offering free Saturday transit service throughout July and August and youth annual transit passes for \$200.

Residents can find updated schedules, route maps and additional information on the Town of Whitecourt's website.



Children participating in the Whitecourt Martial Arts Center's Taekwondo Summer Camp show off the insect nets they used during a bug hunt at Centennial Park as part of the camp's outdoor activities. The week-long camp combines martial arts training with games, fitness and team-building experiences.

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



Family Resource & Crisis Centre
www.whitecourtshelter.ca



Recover Out Loud

- Mondays are in person, at the Family Worship Center upstairs, and online (hybrid) at 7:30pm
- Fridays 7:30pm at the Whitecourt Baptist Church in person only.

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

GRIEF SHARE

CALL Ruth
780-674-7182

Support group on Tuesdays, February 17 to May 5.
Crossroads Community Church, 4719 44 Avenue
Mayerthorpe, Pre-registration is required

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

Located at the United Church Basement on Legion Street (formerly 5201 - 50 Street), Please Leave a Message for Our AA member or Contact Addictions Helpline @1(866)332-2322





Residents gathered at Seniors Circle on July 16 to celebrate Filipino culture through traditional performances, food and community fellowship during a cultural celebration that highlighted diversity, inclusion and connection. Organizers thanked the planning committee, volunteers, performers, community partners and everyone who attended for making the event a success.



Members of the Whitecourt Royals 13U AA baseball team celebrate a 26-18 victory over Delburne following tournament action. The players proudly sport the team's MVP chain and hat after the win.



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Dollar Values as of July 22, 2026



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