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The Press

COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

Locally Owned & Operated

Canada

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Bringing the busyness back to the downtown

| By Serena Lapointe

It might've started off a little wet last Thursday for the Fresh Community Market's Night Market event in downtown Whitecourt, but it didn't stay that way. When the booths opened up at 5 pm, the sky was pouring, and distant rolling thunder could be heard. But as does any good Albertan, everyone stuck it out and waited, huddled under tents and sharing a few laughs as they waved others over to join them.

"The weather this year has been questionable for everybody. But we're from Alberta, and a little rain doesn't stop us. We're still going to do the fun things," laughed Taya Barrett, Market Manager for the Whitecourt & District Chamber of Commerce, as she huddled under a tent waiting for the rain to stop. By 6 pm, the sun was shining, and crowds were starting to build up amongst the vendors downtown.

Last year, the Fresh

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16-year-old Addy Watson performed for event goers.



Busy downtown streets.

Back to school: A reminder to put safety first



By Haylee Winger

As summer winds down and another school year approaches, families across Alberta are getting ready for the return to busy mornings, school buses, classrooms and after-school activities. While backpacks are being packed and school supplies are being checked off the list, safety is another important part of preparing for the first day.

The roads around schools can become especially busy during drop-off and pick-up

times. Drivers should slow down, put away distractions and pay close attention to children who may be walking, biking or crossing the road. Children can sometimes move unexpectedly, so drivers should be prepared to stop and give pedestrians plenty of room.

School bus safety is also an important reminder for students and motorists. Children should wait for their bus in a safe location away from traffic and should never run into the road to catch it. They should wait until the bus has stopped completely be-

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The risk of putting your child’s personal information online



| Whitecourt RCMP release

With Back-to-School season quickly approaching, the Whitecourt RCMP wants to remind parents about the risk of putting your child’s personal information online.

A child’s name, teacher, school, favourite things and other personal details may seem innocent, but together they give someone with

bad intentions far more information than they should have.

Celebrate the milestone, but if you want to post about it, consider keeping the unique details off social media.

DO:

- Take photos in a safe, private location.
- Keep the sign simple.
- Keep the background simple and free of identifying

details

DON’T:

- Photograph in front of your school, house number, or street signs.
- Include your child’s full name, age, teachers name, or school name.

The internet is not a safe place to share private details about your children. Please share responsibly and help us keep our kids safe.



Spruce View Lodge photos



The Whitecourt Early Learning Group visited Spruce View Lodge last week, bringing a colourful performance and games for residents. The visit offered an opportunity for residents and children to connect, share some fun and enjoy the creativity of the community.

WOMBANIA™

by PETER MARINACCI



A look at the local weather

P.O.P.	20%
High	25°C
Low	12°C
Wind	E 14 km/h
24-Hr Rain / Snow	-

Wed., Aug. 26

Mainly sunny

20%

25°C

12°C

E 14 km/h

-

Thu., Aug. 27

Scattered thunderstorms

40%

22°C

12°C

W 17 km/h

~1mm

Fri., Aug. 28

Mix of sun and clouds

20%

21°C

10°C

NW 23 km/h

-

Sat., Aug. 29

Mainly sunny

30%

19°C

10°C

W 13 km/h

-

Sun., Aug. 30

Mainly sunny

10%

20°C

10°C

S 8 km/h

-

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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**



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

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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



Repeat Boutique photo

ANC mill manager Mike Putzke presents a \$25,000 donation to Friends of Whitecourt member Trudy Dorward toward the organization's CT scanner project.

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agservices@woodlands.ab.ca
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www.woodlands.ab.ca/p/bursaries
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NOTICES OF DISCRETIONARY USE APPROVAL

NOTICE OF DECISION APPLICATION 26-DP-063
Location: NE 4-59-10 W5M; Lot 8 Block 1 Plan1023906
Proposed Development: Contractor Services, Transport
Decision Date: August 13, 2026
Appeal Deadline: September 3, 2026

NOTICE OF DECISION APPLICATION 26-DP-065
Location: NW 13-59-10 W5M
Proposed Development: Home Occupation Major - Automotive & Equipment Service
Decision Date: August 18, 2026
Appeal Deadline: September 9, 2026

NOTICE OF DECISION APPLICATION 26-DP-067
Location: SE 11-59-12 W5M; Lot 4 Block 2 Plan 0224827
Proposed Development: Secondary Suite, External
Decision Date: August 18, 2026
Appeal Deadline: September 8, 2026

For full details on Development Permits visit
<https://woodlands.ab.ca/>

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Call: 1-888-870-6315

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

Help youth explore, create, and play!

RECREATION GRANT APPLICATION 2026

Applications for Recreation Programming Grants are being accepted until Friday, September 11, 2026.

Organizations that apply must be non-profit and demonstrate other fundraising efforts and funding sources. Priority will be given to programs that serve children and youth.

Applications, full policy, and all other supporting documents can be:

- Downloaded from our website: woodlands.ab.ca
- Or, picked up at either of the Whitecourt or Fort Assiniboine offices

3 ways to submit your completed applications!

- Drop off in-person at either the Whitecourt or Fort Assiniboine offices
- Mailed to: Woodlands County, Attn: Community Services, Box 60, #1 Woodlands Lane, Whitecourt, AB T7S 1N3
- Emailed to: communityservices@woodlands.ab.ca

For more information, contact Woodlands County Community Services at 780-778-8400, or communityservices@woodlands.ab.ca



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780-778-9337



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Summer Connections



Playing Kerplunk together.

The Summer Connections, previously called Park Parties, have wrapped up for the season. Residents have really enjoyed them but so have those taking part as vendors and organizers. As one of several Rotarians at the event, past president Mike Stark put it best: “I’m going to be enriched when I get home tonight. I’m going to think of the day and think, hey, that was pretty cool!”

| By Serena Lapointe
Over the summer, for the past several years, the municipality has held a monthly community get-together in one of the many smaller parks around town. Originally called “park parties,” the event began in 2022 to help get neighbourhoods together, reacquaint res-

idents and bring back the community spark. This year’s events were planned for Blueberry Park on June 17, Athabasca Park on July 15, and Wedow Park on August 19. Thanks to some unruly weather, including a tornado alert, the July night was cancelled. However, the weather could not

have been more perfect for last week’s event at Wedow Park, which drew a large crowd. The Rotary Club of Whitecourt is a big sponsor of the events, with volunteers cooking up hot dogs and handing out cold drinks. Past president Mike Stark was one of the several Rotarians



The massive ladder towered over the festivities.

on hand for the 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm event and said the sunshine was a great reprieve from past weather. He added that being part of the Park Parties, now called Summer Connections, is about fellowship. “This is community involvement at the ground level. We can

all build something that people go and visit, but here, we get to hand somebody something, right to their hand. We get to say thank you for coming, and they thank us for doing this. That overwhelms us. It’s fellowship not only because we get to be together as friends doing this but also because

we meet people.” Stark said handing a kid a hot dog and getting a big smile in return makes everything better and makes his day. “It’s about what we can do to make society better, in person. That’s the connection. As Rotary, yes, we can

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continued from page 1

fore getting on or off and should follow the driver’s instructions while travelling. Motorists need to be especially careful when approaching a stopped school bus. When a bus is displaying flashing red lights, drivers must stop and remain stopped until the lights have stopped flashing and the bus has resumed movement. Passing a school bus while its red lights are flashing can put children in serious danger. For students walking or riding their bikes to school, parents can help by going over the route with them before classes begin. Walking the route together gives children an opportunity to learn where they should cross the road and where they need to be particularly cautious. Students should use crosswalks when available, pay attention to traffic and avoid distractions such as looking at a phone while crossing. Children riding bicycles or other wheeled equipment should wear a properly fitted helmet and make sure their

equipment is in good condition. A quick check before school starts can help identify loose parts, worn tires or other problems before they become an issue. Back-to-school preparation also involves looking after a child’s overall health. Getting back into a regular sleep schedule, eating healthy meals and staying active can help children adjust to their school routine. Parents should also make sure the school has current emergency contact information and is aware of important health information, allergies or medications their child may need during the day. A backpack is another simple thing families can check before school begins. It should fit comfortably and should not be filled with unnecessary heavy items. Taking a few minutes to organize school supplies and remove things that are not needed can make carrying the backpack easier throughout the day. Safety doesn’t stop once students arrive at school. Children should be reminded to pay attention to their

surroundings, follow school rules and speak up when they notice something that could be unsafe. Parents, teachers and students all have a role in creating a safer environment. The first few weeks of school can be hectic as everyone adjusts to new schedules and routines. Giving yourself a little extra time in the morning, slowing down around school zones and paying attention to children and other pedestrians can help prevent accidents. Back-to-school safety is a community effort. Drivers, parents, teachers and students all play a part in keeping children safe. A few simple precautions and reminders can go a long way toward making the return to school a safe and successful one for Alberta families. Safety information for this article was based on public resources from the Alberta RCMP and Alberta Health Services.



continued from page 6

build monuments, put up parks and gazebos (like at Festival Park), and people will enjoy them for years, and that's awesome. But this is true, one-on-one connection that we get to do, and that's why we're here."

He said that seeing the neighbourhood descend on the park to eat, play games, visit with the fire department members and enjoy the sunshine was a reminder of why the events are important. "It's community. Every neighbourhood is community, and this really drives that point home."

For Rotary, volunteerism is a pillar. Stark pointed to the Rotary Club motto, service above self. "I didn't fully understand what that meant until I joined Rotary. I got to see this simple act of cooking hot dogs and serving people and making them smile. I'm going to be enriched when I get home tonight. I'm going to think of the day and think, hey, that was pretty cool," he smiled. "Anyone who wants to get involved with Rotary, give me a call at 780-778-1517," he added with a grin.

Joining Rotary last week at Wedow Park was a large contingent of firefighters from the Whitecourt Department, along with one of their big, beautiful red engines that had children and adults alike eager to get up close

for a peek. The engine's powerful ladder stretched high above the park and was visible from afar.

Will Stack was one of the firefighters on site. "I think it's awesome to display courage and confidence in the public and show up to these events, so they know that we're here for them." He said that working with the RCMP, Alberta Wildfire and the Town of Whitecourt, all of whom also had booths at the event, was important because it brought different services together as one big community circle.

"I think it's also important, especially for kids, to know what we have and what we wear and what we show up to a call in, so they're not scared when something's happening. So that they know we can help," explained Stack. "We have our tower truck with us, and it's a really tall one. It's a big ladder, and the kids love it. They can get in the truck and check it out. It's great."

For Stack, joining the fire department was about wanting to help his community, a message he shared with the kids coming to check out the rig. "I enjoy volunteering my time and helping out where I can. It makes me happy that I get to be there for somebody on potentially their worst day, and it makes me even happier when I see smiles on people's faces. It's very rewarding."

Fay Arcand, FCSS Program Coordinator for the Town of Whitecourt, joined a few other staff members to help provide resources to attendees. She said attendance at Wedow Park was really good. "We estimated about 75 folks coming, so that's exciting for us. The sun is out, which is also exciting. We've had lots of great feedback and lots of folks stopping in to talk, grab some resources, and ask questions about what we do."

The reason the events changed names, from Park Parties to Summer Connections, was to coincide with funding parameters. "With our new Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) framework, we had to specifically identify what we are planning to achieve with our events that are funded through FCSS." Since the events are meant to provide connection, the new name was born.

Arcand said she and the staff were sharing various resources, including upcoming events like the Women's Conference on October 17 and the Latino Culture event on November 7, but also resources that someone might feel uncomfortable seeking out otherwise. "They could grab some resources without actually going directly to that resource that they might need," said Arcand, such as the Family Violence Initiative.



Town FCSS Program Coordinator Fay Arcand (left) with Emma Harper, Recreation Coordinator.



Eight of Whitecourt's finest firefighters saying cheese alongside some young attendees.



Two members of the Whitecourt RCMP stopped by for a game of cornhole.



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24 Eagle's Nest residents face uncertain future after housing program closure



By Haylee Winger

Twenty-four Whitecourt residents are facing an uncertain future after Soaring Eagle Support Society announced the closure of its Eagle's Nest transitional housing program at its current location.

Soaring Eagle says it has been given until September 30 to vacate the property, leaving residents and staff roughly six weeks to find alternative housing and make the transition.

For many of the residents, finding another place to live will be far more complicated than simply finding a rental unit.

"They all need to find new homes. It is incredibly intimidating for them," said Cindy Gurney, executive director of Soaring Eagle Support Society. Gurney said helping two dozen residents find new homes in such a short period will be a heartbreaking challenge for the organization's small staff.

The announcement follows Whitecourt Town Council's August 18 decision to reject applications from Soaring Eagle seeking amendments to the Municipal Development Plan and Land Use Bylaw.

The Town has said that the coordination

and availability of social services is important to the community, while also noting that the location and operation of a facility must comply with local zoning regulations.

According to the Town, the proposed amendments raised concerns about compatibility with surrounding uses and the broader planning framework for the area.

For Soaring Eagle, the zoning issue arose as its transitional housing model developed.

"As we matured, we developed into a Motel Mini Village Model which doesn't fit with current bylaws," Gurney said. "We need the town to make changes to accommodate our unique program."

Gurney said Soaring Eagle began working to address the zoning issue last summer, developing a proposal that outlined the community need for the program and its impact over the past five years.

Soaring Eagle Support Society was established in 2019 after Dennis and Shelagh Watson and their family formalized their efforts to help vulnerable people in Whitecourt.

The organization initially operated as a downtown outreach centre before expanding into transitional housing.

In June 2021, Soar-

ing Eagle leased Whitecourt's former Alaskan Hotel and converted it into Eagle's Nest, a transitional and supported residential facility. Sixteen residents moved in when the facility opened, with additional residents and support services gradually added over time.

Eagle's Nest provides residents with individual living spaces as well as shared areas where they can socialize, access services, participate in programming and work toward greater stability.

Soaring Eagle also provides outreach services to people experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity, including assistance obtaining identification, completing applications, accessing basic necessities, laundry and showers, and housing advocacy.

The organization stopped accepting new applicants several weeks ago, leaving 24 residents currently living at Eagle's Nest, according to Gurney.

She said all of the residents face significant barriers to finding new housing.

"Every client is living in severe poverty," Gurney said.

She said residents also face cognitive and physical challenges, as well as the effects of previous experiences with homelessness.



Eagle's Nest transitional housing, located at 3515 Caxton Street in Whitecourt, is home to 24 residents who are now facing the search for new housing following Soaring Eagle Support Society's announcement that the program will close at its current location.

"Every resident has multiple challenges that are called hard to house," Gurney said. "They all experienced homelessness trauma and have to face it again now."

The six-week timeline adds another challenge. Gurney said residents have little opportunity to save money before they have to move, while many rental properties have move-in dates at the beginning of the month.

"It takes much time, resourcing, and communication to assist people to move," she said. "We have a couple dozen people to move with our small team."

Soaring Eagle's greatest concern is what could happen if residents are unable to find suitable housing.

Gurney worries some could return to the despair and survival mindset associated with homelessness after making progress toward greater stability.

She also wants the community to recognize the progress many residents have made while living at Eagle's Nest.

Soaring Eagle says participants have transitioned from homelessness into market housing, with some also rebuilding relationships with family members.

"The residents are

grateful, worthy individuals who care for each other and contribute to the community as a whole," Gurney said. "They overcame many obstacles as they worked on their individual wellness goals."

Gurney said the organization's focus is now on helping residents navigate the transition and find new housing.

Community members can support residents in several ways during the transition. Gurney said encouragement is one of the simplest, with Soaring Eagle asking people to send cards, emails and notes that can be shared with residents.

Community members can also drop off meals at Eagle's Nest or provide gift cards, although the organization asks people to call ahead before doing so.

Soaring Eagle is also collecting supplies for housing start-up kits, including kitchen tools and dishes, cleaning supplies, bedding sets, garbage bags, light bulbs, toilet paper and shampoo.

Financial donations can also help cover damage deposits for residents as they secure new housing. Soaring Eagle Support Society will distribute those funds to residents who need assistance with damage-deposit costs.

Gurney said the support Eagle's Nest has

received from Whitecourt residents over the years has been significant, with volunteers and donors ranging from teenagers to retirees.

"The transitional housing program was essential," Gurney said. "It brought the community together in compassion and generosity."

While the future of Eagle's Nest at its current location remains uncertain, Gurney said the need for housing and support for people experiencing a housing crisis will continue.

"We need to continue to serve people in our community who are hurting, hungry, and experiencing a housing crisis," she said. "The need will continue."

For the 24 residents currently living at Eagle's Nest, the immediate priority is finding a safe and stable place to live before September 30.

The coming weeks will determine where these residents go next as they prepare to leave the facility. Gurney hopes they will continue to stay strong and make smart choices as they enter this next season of their lives. Above all, she hopes they will keep up the good work they are doing and carry the lessons and progress they have made with them into whatever comes next.

Alberta RCMP provides tips to curb mail theft

The Alberta RCMP is providing tips to help prevent mail theft. Preventing mail theft is important as it can lead to further crimes such as identity theft.

To help curb mail theft, consider the following tips:

- Install a locking mailbox. A locked mailbox can help deter thieves from taking your mail.
- Collect mail promptly. Don't let mail accumulate in your mailbox. Pick it up as soon as possible after delivery.
- Consider a package delivery box. These

boxes provide a secure place for packages, reducing the risk of theft from your doorstep.

- Require a signature for deliveries. If expecting a package, choose a shipping option that requires a signature.
- Secure your mailbox. Ensure your mailbox is securely attached to your property and not easily accessible to thieves.
- Advise neighbours. Let your neighbours know when you are going away. Have a trusted neighbour

collect your mail or have your mail delivery suspended for that period.

- Shred mail. Shred any mail that contains personal or financial details.
- Do not send cash in the mail. Cash may not be recoverable when stolen in the mail.
- Forward mail when changing addresses. If you change your address, use Canada Post's mail forwarding option to ensure you receive your mail and are aware of which businesses and organizations

need your new address.

If you see something suspicious, report it to your local police service. If you see a crime in progress, call 911. If you wish to remain anonymous, you can contact Crime Stop-

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diction call 310-RCMP (7267).

For more information on preventing mail theft, please follow us on Facebook @RCMPinAlberta, X @RCMPAlberta, and on YouTube @RCMP-GRC Alberta.

What you should consider when your parents need extra support

(NC) As their grown child, having your parents reach a stage when they need your help can be a big change for the whole family. Like with any major change, discussing and preparing in advance can make all the difference. When planning for a conversation around your parents' independence here are two important things to consider:

Everyone needs help sometimes. As your parents age, some things may start to become more difficult or time-consuming. A task like going for groceries or to the bank may become an all-day project. As you step in to help more, it's possible to step into the role of caregiver without you or your parent realizing.

It can be useful for you and your parents to regularly touch base on

what they enjoy doing as well as what feels difficult. Retirement living is one option that can help by taking care of those tasks that are becoming harder. This can help your parent stay independent and focused on what they find meaningful to them.

What are your parents' goals? If a decision requires a senior to move to a more supportive environment, such as a retirement community, it's possible to lose sight of what your parents value and want to accomplish. That's why it's important to check to make sure that what makes them happiest is at the centre of any plans your family makes.

"Whether it's independence, having a sense of community, enjoying privacy or keeping a beloved pet,

understanding what matters most to the person should guide every decision," explains Charlene Dawes, director, clinical services at Aspira Retirement Living. "Moving to a retirement community isn't about giving up the life you enjoy, but rather gaining the support that helps you continue living it."

One way to continue the conversation productively is to help your parents experience the possibilities firsthand. You can tour a retirement community together, stay for a meal, attend an event or consider a short stay. Seeing daily life in action can help relieve uncertainty and show that having the right support can help them continue living life on their own terms. Learn more about retirement living options at aspiralife.ca.



Emma enjoys a day of golf at Brooke's Creek in Whitecourt. The course offers an 18-hole mini-golf experience, providing fun outdoor activity for families and visitors.





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After the rain stopped, the crowd began to build.



Cornhole on the go.

Following other successful events in downtown Whitecourt, the Chamber decided to turn its Saturday morning Fresh Community Market into an evening affair, with the goal of bringing the hustle and bustle back to the community's downtown core.

continued from page 1

Community Market was a Saturday morning stop every week-end. This year, Barrett said they decided to try something new. "I remember growing up here, you could walk down main street, and

it was bustling all the time, and now it's not. It's something I want my kids to have, the same way I had it, which is why we brought the market down here, to make it a hot spot to go and to do all the things."

Instead of a weekly

market, the Chamber chose to offer monthly night markets in the downtown core, shutting down a couple of streets, lining the area with vendor booths, and encouraging local businesses to join the fun. She said the feedback has been amazing. "The support we've received from the downtown core has been phenomenal, which, at the end of the day, is the reason we moved it to the downtown into a night market: to bring people down to support small businesses. It's also a good opportunity for the vendors to participate. We get vendors who come from all over Alberta to be here. One of our vendors to-

night even came from Grande Prairie," said Barrett.

Benches and tables provided seating opportunities, especially in the intersection where Addy Watson was playing. "I hope you guys enjoy your shopping and listening to live music. Thank you for having me," said Watson, as she began strumming her guitar, jumping right into a country hit followed by some CCR.

Barrett said seeing the downtown come alive reminded her of what she loved about it growing up, and the business she was hoping to see come back to it. "I think, as somebody who's grown up here my whole life, we tend to be the first to complain that there's nothing to do, so I think when there are things going on everyone makes a real valiant effort to show up so that those events can keep happening, and that's important."

She said sometimes it feels like society is more destination-focused, where people have a place to go, and then they leave, and don't necessarily wander. "I think the night market can be that kind of destination but also not, because you get to head somewhere and then just walk around and see people and find

new things you weren't even looking for. It kind of grabs you instead of you having to grab it. And I love that."

Barrett and the Chamber folks at the market had a scavenger hunt happening. Attendees had to visit not only downtown stores, but numerous stores in the community. Each of the 23 participating stores had a challenge to complete in-house. Once completed, players received a stamp on their card. With just eight stamps collected, players could hand in their card for a chance at prizes, including \$500 Whitecourt Bucks.

"We could not do extras like this without our incredible sponsors, including the Town of Whitecourt and Falcon Rentals. We also have people who sponsor things at each individual market, and without them all, we wouldn't be able to offer these things," said Barrett. "The whole point of this event is creating a community that supports each other. We want to make it so that people want to come here and do these things."

The final Night Market of the season is coming up next month on September 24 from 5 to 9 pm in downtown Whitecourt. Barrett said they are going to pull the autumn vibes

up a notch, starting with live music and some warmth. "We are going to do an open jam event, so any musical talents can come be part of it. If you sing or you have an instrument, please come. We're also going to have one of the town's big, beautiful fire pits. We're going to make it a fall vibe." She said they also have some secret things in the works that will be announced soon. "I think the kids are really, really going to love it!"

Barrett and the Chamber thank everyone for making the markets a success, even if the weather was a bit of a pain at times. "So far this season, The Fresh Community Market has welcomed over 60 local vendors. By supporting them, you've helped a parent put their child into sports, helped a small business contribute to their household expenses or helped someone pay for school supplies or training. It's also helping them invest back into their business, whether that's a farmer, maker, baker or creator. It's helping them keep doing what they love and helping turn someone's side hustle into something bigger. Every purchase matters, and we cannot thank you enough. See you on September 24!"

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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

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Whitecourt Town Council update

Whitecourt Town Council has rejected an application made by the Soaring Eagle Support Society to amend the Municipal Development Plan and Land Use Bylaw that would allow the continued provision of support to individuals who are homeless or hard to house at 3515 Caxton Street. Earlier this year, it was brought to the Town of Whitecourt's attention that the original use that was occurring at the Soaring Eagle Support Society's property changed. As a result, current operations at this location no longer comply with the

zoning for that district. From a land use planning perspective, it was felt that the amendments would create a pocket zoning with the potential for compatibility issues and there are other locations in the community that already accommodate the proposed use. While the coordination and availability of social services is important to our community, the location and operational impacts of a facility must comply with local zoning regulations.

JOEL Theatrical Rigging Contractors Ltd. has been awarded the contract for the pur-

chase and installation of stage drapery, room divider, and rigging at the Canfor Culture & Events Centre for \$348,359.25 plus GST.

Two members of Council have been authorized to attend the Alberta Recreation & Parks Association Annual Conference and Energize Workshop in October 2026.

Whitecourt Town Council has proclaimed September 14-20, 2026 as National Coaches Week in Whitecourt.

The Town of Whitecourt is preparing for the 2027 budget, and has scheduled the following:

- The 2027 Budget

Public Input Session for Monday, September 28, 2026 at 4:00pm; and,

- A Special Meeting of Council for Wednesday, October 7, 2026 at 3:00pm.

Council members have been authorized to attend: the 2026 Whitecourt & District Chamber of Commerce Economic Forum on October 15, 2026; the Whitecourt Fire Department Oath Ceremony on September 13, 2026; and the Walk A Mile Fundraiser hosted by Wellspring Family Resource & Crisis Centre on September 17, 2026.



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