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March 30, 2021

2020/2021 TRANSPORTATION USER FEES WAIVED

Submitted by GYPSD

The Board of Trustees approved the waiver of all transportation fees for the 2020/2021 school year at the Public Board Meeting on March 24, 2021.

The Board recognized the financial hardship that many families experienced over the last twelve months. Transportation user fees are in place to offer services to our families, and we are happy to provide them as long as there is no impact to the funding that the Division receives for learning from Alberta Education, noted Brenda Rosadiuk, Board Chair and Trustee for the communities of Niton Junction, Wildwood, and Evansview. Because of the ongoing pandemic, the cost of running transportation this year was significantly lower than previous years and lower than last spring's projections, so we can afford to waive the fees for this current school year.

Continued on Page 2



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STOP THE QUARANTINE CHAOS

March 23, 2021 - OTTAWA: Gerald Soroka, Member of Parliament for Yellowhead, during Question Period, asked the Liberal government the following:

He said:

"Mr. Speaker, last week constituents of mine working in the pipeline repair and inspection services were detained upon arrival into Canada, despite having provided a travel letter and a government essential service workers' permit to the CBSA agents. Workers who cross the border for essential work have been deemed essential for a reason.

Continued on Page 2

NEW CANADA EMERGENCY BUSINESS ACCOUNT EXTENDED

March 22, 2021 - OTTAWA: Gerald Soroka, Member of Parliament for Yellowhead, wishes to advise that the deadline for the new Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA) applications is being extended from March 31 to June 30, 2021.

This deadline extension applies to any new applications for CEBA loans of \$60,000 or to new applications from businesses that have already received the \$40,000 loan and intend to apply for the additional \$20,000.

Continued on Page 2





Page 2 Community VOICE



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2020/2021 Transportation User Fees Waived

Stop the Quarantine Chaos

Continued from Page 1

As per Board Policy 17, the Board annually approves transportation user fees to offer a range of unfunded services. Alberta Education provides transportation funding only to school jurisdictions for eligible riders to their designated school. User fees are needed to cover transportation services that are not funded by the province including School of Choice for families who choose to attend a different school from their designated school; Alternate Second Seat for families who request a second seat be held reserved on a different bus; Ineligible for families who live less than 2.4 kms from their designated school; and Transportation out of Division for families who reside within the GYPSD boundary but request transportation to attend school in another school division. In addition to the waiver of user fees for the 2020/2021 school year, the Board also approved a motion to not raise fees for the 2021/2022 school year.

Families who have paid their transportation fees for this school year can expect a refund by the end of April.

SALES TEAM Elaine

Ashley

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Continued from Page 1

Why is the government causing quarantine chaos, locking them up in their COVID hotels, even when proper credentials were presented?

Reply: Hon. Marco Mendicino (Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, Lib.):

"Mr. Speaker, we have taken the measures that are necessary to protect the health and safety of all Canadians. At the same time, we have introduced exemptions for workers, including essential workers, to ensure that we can keep our economy going. We will continue to apply those measures with great rigor so that we can both protect the health and safety of Canadians as well as meet the needs of Canadians economically."

The video of the exchange can be found at: https:// fb.watch/4q0bBneWEH/

SERENITY FUNERAL SERVICE NEW FACILITY New Canada Emergency Business Account Extended

Continued from Page 1

The extension will allow more businesses to access the support they need as Canada's economy continues to deal with localized public health restrictions and, for a number of businesses, reduced opening hours or reduced demand for services. Extending the application deadline to June 2021 also aligns CEBA with the timelines of other federal government support programs for business.



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SERENITY FAMILY SERVICE SOCIETY - YOUR NOT-FOR-PROFIT SOCIETY

It was Palm Sunday but because of a sore throat, 5-year-old Bobby stayed home from church with a baby-sitter. When the family returned home, they were carrying several palm fronds. Bobby asked them what they were for. 'People held them over Jesus' head as he walked by,' his father told him. 'Wouldn't you know it,' Bobby fumed, 'the one Sunday I don't go and he shows up.'





Page 4 Community**VOICE**

March 30, 2021

KEY MESSAGES FROM GYPSD'S PUBLIC BOARD MEETING

Submitted by Grande Yellowhead Public School Division

March 24, 2021

District Priority 1: Student Learning

Board Chair Rosadiuk acknowledged the work of schools to prepare for 2021-2022through Pre-registration for Jr. Kindergarten and Kindergarten, and for the development of CAMPUS GYPSD to provide excellent and personalized distance learning in the new H paraOnline Learning platform, Home Education and specialized options –such as the Christian Learning pro-

gram pilot.

High school students at Parkland and Grand Trunk who are interested in IT (Information Technology) have the opportunity to participate in an IT Mentorship Program pilot hosted by the Division's Technology Team, under the leadership of Technology Directors' Kevin Bissoon and Lyle Lee. The pilot seeks to develop student-led help desks and encourage and cultivate interest in the field of IT. The Division strives to inspire students to explore and investigate a range of possible Career Pathways including careers in Computer Science, Agriculture, Forestry,

and the world of Trades.

DISTRICT PRIORITY 2: Teaching and Leadership Excellence

The Board received reports from Deputy Chief Superintendent Kastrinos describing the Division's support of Student Teachers. This year, GYPSD provided practicum placements for 12 university students in Education programs from the University of Alberta, The University of Calgary, and the University of Lethbridge. Mr. Kastrinos also shared an overview of the HR Department's work to recruit, support, and retain qualified and committed personnel to



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GYPSD.

Highlights from Superintendent Lewis' Report include: •The senior team's atten-

•The senior team's attendance and participation in the 2021 Virtual 55thCASS Annual Learning Conference;

•Acknowledged Eric Bouchard as the new principal of Jasper Elementary School and Mr. Lyle Lee in his appointment to Director of IT.

•Participation in Committees of the Board meetings for Board Policy, the Board Planning Seminar, and the Division's Calendars;

•Work on the new Alberta Education Assurance Framework to support school jurisdictions' Education Plans.

DISTRICT PRIORITY 3: Community Engagement

Board Chair Rosadiuk, Vice Chair Zaporosky, Trustees Fate, Karpluk, Aust, Caputo and Fowler are committed to leading advocacy for strong public education, building collaborative relationships and developing solution-focused partnerships to ensure success for GYPSD students and community. Highlights include:

The Board will attend a Special Meeting with Minister La-Grange this Friday, March 26th.

Board Chair Rosadiuk shared correspondence from:

•The Alberta School Board Insurance Exchange (ASBIE)

surance Exchange (ASBIE) •The Alberta School Board Association (ASBA)

The Board of Trustees approved motions to:

•Waive Transportation Service Fees for the current school year (2020-2021);

•Update Board Policy 17 – Student Transportation Services;

•Update Board Policy 17, Appendix A –Transportation Fees and not increase user service fees for 2021-2022;

•Create new Board Policy 17, Appendix B –Occasional Rider Request Form;

•Add École to the name of Jasper Elementary School.

Trustee Participation and attendance at:

•CASS Virtual FNMI Education Gathering March 15th-17th;

•ASBA Zone 2/3 Meeting March 19th.

RCMP ARREST THREE PEOPLE FOLLOWING A SEARCH WARRANT

Submitted by Drayton Valley RCMP

Drayton Valley, Alta. – On March 23, 2021 following a two-month long investigation the Drayton Valley RCMP General Investigation Section arrested three people for a number of drug related offences.

Drayton Valley RCMP General Investigation Section along with the assistance of Drayton Valley RCMP and RCMP Police Dog Services executed a search warrant at a residence in Drayton Valley, Alta.

Police seized what is believed to be 128 grams of Cocaine, 147 grams of Methamphetamine, 1400 millilitres of GHB, 38 vape pens filled with an unknown substance, Oxycodone, Fentanyl, stolen ID cards, brass knuckles as well as a loaded .40 calibre handgun.

Joey Lee GALLIE (34) of Drayton Valley, Alta. has been charged with:

• Possession of a controlled substance for the purpose of trafficking (X3)

• Possession of a controlled substance

• Unsafe storage of a firearm

• Possession of a prohibited firearm

• Possession of a prohibited weapon

• Possession of a weapon for a dangerous purpose (X2)

• Possession of a firearm contrary to prohibition order (X2)

• Fail to comply (X5) GALLIE was remanded into custody and is scheduled to appear in Drayton Valley Provincial Court on April 1, 2021.

Chantel Marie LAPOINTE (30) of Drayton Valley, Alta. has been charged with:

• Possession of a prohibited weapon

• Possession of a weapon for a dangerous purpose

• Fail to comply (X2) LAPOINTE was released from custody following an Interim Judicial Hearing and is scheduled to appear in Drayton Valley Provincial Court on April 6, 2021.

A 28-Year-old female from Blairmore, Alta. has been charged with:

• Possession of stolen property under \$5000 (X3)

The 28-year-old female was released on an Appearance Notice and is scheduled to appear in Drayton Valley Provincial Court on May 18, 2021 at 10:00.

All three had outstanding ar-

rest warrants from other jurisdictions.

"Enforcement of drug trafficking has been identified as a priority by the community of Drayton Valley. Drug traffickers exploit individuals with addictions leading to an increase in property crime and drug overdoses within our community," Says Cpl. Ryan Hoetmer of the Drayton Valley RCMP General Investigation Section. "Drayton Valley RCMP remains committed to the enforcement of those who choose to profit off these addictions".

If you suspect illicit drug activity in your community, please contact your local police detachment. If you wish to remain anonymous, you can contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS), online at www.P3Tips.com or by using the "P3 Tips" app available through the Apple App or Google Play Store.

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Submitted by Parkland RCMP

On March 11, 2021 at 11:45 a.m. Parkland RCMP responded to a report of a potential break & enter in progress at a seasonal residence south of Wabamun Lake near Rg Rd 50 in Parkland County, AB. Responding officers attended the area and were able to intercept the suspects as they were leaving the area. The suspects were arrested without incident. RCMP investigators located several items in the vehicle the suspects were driving which were later determined to be stolen from the location of the break & enter. Tubby Rain (30) and Ronald House (39) of Duffield, Alta. have been charged with Breaking & entering into a residence. Both have been released and are scheduled to appear in court on May 26, 2021 at the Stony Plain Provincial Court.

PROGRAMMING AT TIPPLE PARK MUSEUM

Submitted by Melissa Killick

Even though Museums are closed until further notice, that doesn't mean we can't offer programming and events in a creative manner.

We encourage all age groups to participate in our coal tipple art contest. Draw or paint a coal tipple and submit it to the museum before April 14th. Each submission will receive one free event voucher for any museum program this year. Please write your name and phone number on the back of your submission. The overall winner will receive a museum goodie bag along with their framed art showcased in the museum for all visitors to view. Please email your masterpiece to Tipple Park Museum Box 968 Evansburg, AB TOE 0TO or drop it in the submission bin beside the main museum doors.

On April 24th we will be offering a virtual pysanky egg experience. A pysanka is a Ukrainian Easter egg, decorated using beeswax and dyes utilizing traditional folk motifs and designs. We will be selling kits for \$15.00 that will include all you need to make a few pysanky eggs of your own. All kits will include three packs of pysanky egg dye, one block of bee's wax, pysanka egg symbol sheet, one kistka, one candle and a stand. If you are interested please preorder your kit before April 16th. You can place an order by calling 780.727.2240 or email tippleparkmuseum@gmail.com. The workshop video will be led by a former Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village employee and will be posted on our website www.tippleparkmuseum.com and Facebook page April 24th. Another Ukraine tradition

Another Ukraine tradition during the Easter season is to make Paska bread. It's a wonderful Easter tradition shared by Russian and Ukrainian people. We are offering a virtual Paska tutorial that will be posted on our website and Facebook page April 17, 2021. This program will be free and you will have to buy your own supplies. You will need milk, sugar, six eggs, active dry yeast, two sticks of unsalted butter, salt, sour cream, vanilla extract, flour, raisins, powdered sugar, lemon juice and three large panettone paper molds.

We hope you can join and follow along with our programming this April. Keep checking our Facebook page: Tipple Park Museum for more upcoming events and programming!

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For information and to Register: Carra Aschenmeier, Managing Director of Learning Services email: carrasch@gypsd.ca or call 780.723.4471

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Spring to it! Get started on your Home Improvement To-Do list!

Check out our Spring Home Reno guide for ideas, inspiration, advice and valuable local advertising!



Home renovation trends are ever-changing. Renovations that might have been de rigueur 20 years ago may seem dated now. Recognizing the potentially popular trends of tomorrow is a great way for homeowners to give their homes a fresh new look and put themselves in position to capitalize on popular trends when they put their homes on the market. That's especially so after 2020, a year when millions of people spent more time at home than ever before. All that time working from home and relaxing at home gave millions of homeowners ideas about what they like about their homes and what they hope to change. The following are some renovation trends that various experts suspect could emerge in 2021. Eco-friendly living: Climate

change, and how to combat it, was a hot button issue during the 2020 presidential election in the United States. So it should come as no surprise that urdesignmag.com, a web magazine that showcases creative trends in design, architecture, art, technology, and fashion, predicts that eco-friendly living solutions figure to be hot commodities in 2021. Eco-friendly appliances, furniture and designs can help to conserve energy and reduce waste, which environmentalists and government agencies like the Environmental Protection Agency note are two critical components in the fight against climate change.

Large windows: Large windows can provide stunning views of the outdoors and allow ample natural light into a home.

It may not be a coincidence if large windows prove to be a hot trend in 2021. The COVID-19 pandemic that dominated much of 2020 forced many people to spend considerably more time at home. Darker homes without much natural light can adversely affect mood, especially when people are spending more time at home. HGTV predicts that homeowners will seek ways to bring more natural light into their homes in 2021, and large windows naturally brighten homes while making rooms appear bigger, helping people feel less cramped. That's an especially beneficial characteristic when spending more time indoors at home.

• Minimalism: The anticipated popularity of minimalism in 2021 may also be connected to the pandemic. As professionals were forced to work from home and many families spent more time together inside their homes then ever before, they may have recognized a need to cut back on clutter, including extra furniture. A minimalist approach is both simple and clean, which can make homes feel less claustrophobic.

• Multi-functional spaces: Homeowners asked a lot of their homes in 2020, as rooms were transformed into multi-functional spaces seemingly overnight. HGTV notes that spending more time at home showed homeowners that it may not make sense to dedicate entire rooms of a home to a single purpose. Renovations that can help homeowners transform rooms into multi-functional spaces figure to be hot commodities in the years ahead.



March 30, 2021



Backyard pools provide a way to cool off and enjoy a taste of luxury without having to travel. Backyard pools provided even more convenience and a welcome respite in 2020, as many public pools were closed in response to social distancing restrictions put in place during the pandemic. After installing pools, many homeowners realize that touching up the landscaping around the pool can provide the finishing touch to their backyard retreats. Not all landscaping is the same, and homeowners should choose plants that look beautiful, are tolerant to pool splash-out and won't outgrow the area. The home and garden resource The Spruce notes that a plant that is attractive at two feet tall can grow rapidly and drop leaves or other debris into the pool.

When selecting options for pool landscaping, there are some considerations to keep



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· Choose plants that will provide privacy.

• Know which kind of climate a plant needs prior to purchasing it. Tropical plants may be fitting poolside, but will they endure when the season is over?

• Design according to the theme of the home, as plants should complement the existing style. Modern foliage may not blend well with a home styled after a traditional English cottage.

• Decide whether you can accept spreading or trailing plants that can cascade over retaining walls and other infrastructure.

 \cdot Look at trees that won't drop too many leaves, flowers or fruit into the water.

• Think about having layers of plants to soften the landscape, which can make a small pool seem bigger and more luxurious, indicates the landscaping company Earth Development, Inc.

• Don't overlook the possibility of a lawn abutting pavers or concrete surrounding a pool, as it can soften the edges and keep spaces open and inviting.

· Incorporate herbs or fragrant plants, which can transform a pool day into a spa experience. Consider low-maintenance lavender as an option.

Pool landscaping must marry a variety of different features and plant requirements. As a result, a professional consultation may be the route to take. Landscape architects will have the know-how to select plant varieties that will be tolerant, beautiful and fulfill homeowners' wishes.

Backyard pools can make a backyard retreat that much more enjoyable. Landscaping offers the softness and beauty that adds a finishing touch to poolside retreats.



Crawl spaces tend to be no-go zones in many homes. With little room to maneuver and no heating or cooling, it's no wonder people avoid crawl spaces. But pests may see crawl spaces in a wholly different light.

Rodents and insects that find their way into crawl spaces can do significant damage. According to the pest control experts at Terminix®, pests can destroy insulation, gnaw through wiring and air ducts and damage the wooden substructures of a home. Though many homeowners may go months if not years between trips to their crawl spaces, periodic visits to inspect for the presence of pests can help uncover any issues before they escalate into significant problems.

The discovery of pest problems in a crawl space can be unsettling. Some homeowners may wonder how long they've been hosting these uninvited guests, while others may wonder what they can do to evict them once and for all. Fortunately, homeowners can employ various strategies to keep pests from taking over their crawl spaces.

· Seal cracks and openings. Pests may enter a crawl space through small cracks or openings, much like cold or warm air can enter through similar cracks around windows and doors. Terminix® notes that homeowners can apply caulk or foam insulation around cracks or openings in their crawl spaces. No crack is too small to seal, as small insects like termites and ants don't need much room to maneuver their way into a home.

Encapsulate the crawl space. Crawl spaces are dark

and damp. Wet, humid conditions attract rodents and insects, increasing the risk of infestation. Encapsulation closes and secures a crawl space with a thick vapor barrier that lines the floor and walls of the crawl space. Vapor barriers can keep moisture from condensing on wood, making the area less likely to attract pests.

• Run a dehumidifier in the crawl space. Dehumidifiers can help homeowners control moisture in a crawl space. In fact, many companies that install vapor barriers recommend running dehumidifiers after a barrier has been installed.

• Examine the perimeter of your home, particularly the exterior walls. Periodic examinations of a home's exterior may reveal brush that can make for ideal shelters for pests. Pests sheltering along the exterior walls of a home will eventually try to enter the home, likely through the crawl space. Remove piles of brush during routine walkarounds of the home and trim any bushes or shrubs that also may be providing shelter to pests.

 Keep an eye on the crawl space. Though crawl spaces can be difficult to access, homeowners should visit these spaces periodically. Inspections can help homeowners determine if dehumidifiers are still running and allow them to check for pests or other issues, such as cracks, that may be inviting unwanted guests into their homes.

Crawl spaces can become homes and breeding grounds for pests if homeowners don't take measures to prevent such issues.



March 30, 2021



Parents go to great lengths to protect their children. Much of those efforts may be directed at potential threats outside the home, but it's equally important that parents prioritize safety inside their homes as well.

According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, a child in the United States is injured in a television or furniture tip-over incident about 43 minutes. Tip-over incidents are preventable, and the CPSC offers the following tips to protect children.

• Use sturdy furniture. When choosing furniture to hold a television, be sure to read product descriptions to ensure you're only buying furniture designed to hold a television. Items described as "television stands" or "media centers" are designed to hold televisions, but size and weight restrictions also must be considered when buying such products. TV stands and media centers are only safe if they are designed to hold televisions that are the size of your TV.

• Secure the television. The CPSC recommends that all televisions be secured by mounting or anchoring them to the wall. Properly mounted televisions likely won't come off the wall no matter how curious kids are, but no item should be lower than 27 inches from the ground. Parents who can't or don't want to mount their televisions can purchases anchoring kits, which the CPSC notes cost as little as \$5 and take as few as five minutes to install. Parents hesitant to do the job themselves can have televisions mounted or anchored by professional installers for a nominal fee. Many electronics retailers offer installation services as well.

· Secure top-heavy furniture. Top-heavy furniture also should be secured to prevent tip-overs. Anti-tip brackets are inexpensive and can be used to secure dressers, bookshelves and other pieces that pose a threat to curious youngsters. Anchoring furniture secures items to the wall, and the CPSC notes that a lot of newly built furniture is sold with anti-tip devices. These devices should be installed immediately so children are safe from the moment a new piece is brought into the home.

• Remove tempting objects. Curious kids may try to climb furniture if they see toys, remote controls or other enticing items on top of televisions, dressers or bookshelves. Keep such items low or stored in low drawers to remove the temptation to climb.

Tip-over incidents are deadly but preventable. Parents who recognize this threat to their youngsters' safety can ensure that their homes remain safe environments for curious kids.



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WHAT TO KNOW BEFORE INSTALLING BUILT-INS

After purchasing a new home, buyers often want to put their own fingerprint on the property. Homeowners anticipate the day when their homes are transformed into spaces that reflect their style and not the preferences of previous owners.

When deciding how to renovate interior spaces, homeowners will make some relatively temporary changes, but they also may consider some permanent adjustments. Built-ins fall into the category of permanent adjustments, and while realty professionals note that built-ins tend to provide a good return on investment, homeowners can learn more about built-ins before deciding if they want to install them in their homes.

What are built-ins? Realtor. com defines built-ins as any feature that is built into the interior of a home. The term "built-ins" may immediately conjure up images of bookshelves, but built-ins also include benches and entertainment centers

Why install built-ins? Builtins can be both utilitarian and aesthetically appealing. Builtins are functional because they provide storage space that homeowners may otherwise find hard to create. Builtins are embedded in walls that may otherwise be useful only to hang artwork. This can provide much-needed storage space in homes with limited square footage. Professionally installed built-ins also can transform rooms, making them appear more organized. Customized built-ins also can give homes their own unique character, though it's important to note that prospective buyers may or may not appreciate that uniqueness.

Are there disadvantages to built-ins? The permanence of built-ins may not appeal to some buyers. If buyers don't like built-ins at all or are not fond of the look of customized built-ins, that may be enough to convince them to walk away from a property. However, Realtor.com notes that functional built-ins, like built-in bench seats with storage capacity, appeal to modern buyers and their preference for as much storage space as possible.

Permanent built-ins also can be costly. The home remod-

eling resource Fixr.com notes that built-in entertainment center installations can cost between \$8,000 and \$9,500. Built-in seating and bookshelves are not as costly, but such projects still cost more than simply buying premade furniture.

Some buyers also may see built-ins as limiting what they can do with a space. That can be a major disadvantage as more professionals work from home and seek multi-functional spaces in their homes.

Built-ins can dramatically change the look of a room and provide some much-needed storage space. But it's imperative that homeowners give ample thought to built-ins before deciding to install them in their homes.



Page 14 Community VOICE March 30, 2021 YELLOWHEAD COUNTY COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

Submitted by Yellowhead County

March 23, 2021

Public Hearing for Bylaw 04.21 – Members of the public had an opportunity to address the proposed bylaw 04.21 that would create an additional parcel. In order to subdivide the lands, the lands must be redistricted from Rural District (RD) to Country Residential (CR) District. No presentations were brought forward during the hearing. The bylaw will be brought back to Council for additional readings of the bylaw before it can be passed.

Summer Gravel Program – Council award the 2021 Summer Gravel Program contract to McLeod Valley Sand and Gravel Ltd. in the amount of \$969,943.08.

Reno Road and Trans Mountain Contract – Council award the tender for Reno Road and Trans Mountain Road Asphalt Concrete Pavement and Other Work to Ledcor Highways Ltd. in the amount of \$1,795,512.11. This option will facilitate completion in 2021.

Edson West ASP - Council gave second and third reading to Bylaw 05.21 to amend the Joint Edson West Area Structure Plan. This is a joint plan for properties in Yellowhead County and the Town of Edson that provides a framework for future redistricting, subdivisions, and land development. The area includes estate residential, natural areas, rural industrial, and business commercial/light industrial. A public hearing was held on March 9,2021.

Non-Residential Tax Agreement – Council directed administration to prepare a policy setting terms of entering into a non-residential property tax agreement with Council. A proposed policy will be brought back for Council to review at a later date.

The next regular Council Meeting is April 13, 2021 at 9:30 AM.

The next Governance and Priorities meeting is April 20, 2021 at 9:30 AM.

'GERM HUNTERS' DISCOVER RARE DISEASE IN RURAL ALBERTA

Submitted by Alberta Health Services

EDMONTON – A rare pulmonary disease that is linked to bats has made Alberta home, according to new research led by provincial lab scientists.

Infectious disease experts at Alberta Precision Laboratories



(APL) and the University of Alberta have confirmed that histoplasmosis – a fungal infection transmitted through bat and bird droppings – is now found in Alberta. Their study extends the known range of the disease much further northwest from its traditional home in the central United States and parts of southern Ontario and Quebec.

"We were surprised at how many cases were locally acquired, as histoplasmosis has always been considered a travel-related infection," said Dr. Tanis Dingle, APL's lead clinical microbiologist for fungal diseases and an assistant professor in the U of A's Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry. "We now know that it is definitely living in Alberta and has the potential to infect people who come in contact with it."

The fungus can be present in contaminated dust particles, and when inhaled, patients experience respiratory infections with flu-like symptoms, including cough, fever, chills and headache. Cases are typically related to individuals who have come in contact with bat or bird droppings in old homes, churches, construction sites and parks.

Among 45 confirmed cases of histoplasmosis in Alberta between 2011 and 2018, the researchers used epidemiologic data and genetic analysis to determine that 15 of the cases were locally-acquired. The cases were primarily found in rural areas in central Alberta including Sundre, Stettler and county, Stony Plain and Spruce Grove. Previously, the geographic range of the fungus was not thought to expand further northwest than Minnesota, some 2000 km away. The results of the study were published this month in the medical journal The Lancet Microbe. In addition, early looks at the study led scientists at the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to include the region in newly drawn maps of areas where the disease is known to occur.

"Knowing that histoplasmosis is here can help improve the diagnosis and treatment of patients who have no history of travel to the traditional risk areas," said Dr. Ilan Schwartz, assistant professor, division of infectious diseases, U of A. "Histoplasmosis can be a challenging disease to diagnosis and to treat, and patients often spend months before the correct diagnosis is made. Awareness that the disease is here is an essential first step for doctors to be able to consider the diagnosis and order the appropriate tests."

The researchers are also exploring whether climate change could be a factor in the spread of histoplasmosis to new geographies. In Alberta, increasing temperatures and decreasing precipitation have been documented over the past several decades, which might have resulted in more favorable conditions for Histoplasma to live in Alberta soils. The disease can survive in soil temperatures ranging from -18°C to 37°C, the lower end of this range being common in Alberta winters.

The research team hopes to continue their work by further investigating soil samples to determine other areas in Alberta where the disease may be present.

Alberta Precision Laboratories is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Alberta Health Services, delivering high-quality, responsive diagnostic lab services to Albertans across the provincial healthcare system. For more information, visit www.albertaprecisionlabs.ca

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SPRING 2021

March 30, 2021

Map out the best way to navigate spring driving with our guide that is fully loaded with helpful features for today's drivers. It's your one-stop resource for information, advice and valuable local advertising geared toward all things automotive!



CAR TROUBLE? CHECK THE FUSE BOX

Modern automobiles are technological marvels that rely on electrical components more than ever before. According to The Family Handyman, vehicles have 40 or more fuses grouped in two or more places.

Just like fuses in a home's electrical panel, automotive fuses stop excessive current flow that can overheat circuits, damage equipment or cause fires. Any electrical component in a vehicle, such as the radio or headlights, are tied to a fuse.

When something goes awry with automotive electrical components, drivers may be quick to believe the components themselves or even the car's battery or alternator are to blame. Mechanics sav that it's entirely possible that a blown fuse is the cause of

the problem. Simply checking and/or replacing the fuse can alleviate the issue.

Finding the fuses

The location of the fuse box depends on the make and model of the vehicle. Drivers should consult their owner's manual to learn where the fuse boxes are located. Some vehicles have two fuse boxes that serve different purposes. Engine compartment fuse boxes protect certain engine components, including the anti-lock brake pump. Fuses inside or beneath the dashboard may protect dome lights or the air conditioning system.

According to How a Car Works, the individual fuses in the box are typically numbered. That makes it easier for drivers to determine which vehicle components

aren't working. If the fuses are not numbered, then it's a matter of removing fuses to see which circuits stop working to help narrow down the issue.

Replacing fuses

Vehicles may have different types of fuses. It's important to know which ones are in the car so you can get the right replacement.

"Blade" fuses are common and have a conductive horseshoe-shaped metal strip that runs through an outer plastic housing. If the metal strip appears broken, the fuse is no good.

Cylindrical glass fuses are found in some cars. They're also known as "Buss" fuses. If the metal strip that runs down the center is broken. the fuse needs to be replaced.

Older European cars have ceramic fuses built with an outer copper conductive surface. The narrow part of the copper piece breaks in the middle when the fuse blows.

Regardless of their design, fuses will be clearly labeled with their ampere ratings, according to CarID. Physically remove the fuse using a small, specially shaped fuse puller tool that may be included inside the fuse box. Replace the fuse with one of the same amperage by gently pushing it into place.

If the new fuse blows relatively quickly after replacement, or multiple fuses blow at one time, a larger current issue may be the problem. Consult a mechanic in this instance.

TAKS







TIPS TO SAFELY SELL A CAR ON YOUR OWN

More and more auto buyers are considering and ultimately purchasing preowned vehicles. According to the Bureau of Transportation Statistics, used vehicle sales in the United States have risen every year since 2013.

The increase in used car sales over the last decade reflects a growing confidence among consumers that preowned vehicles are reliable and worth buyers' investment. Though many dealerships now offer sizable inventories of preowned vehicles, private citizens can still sell vehicles on their own. Car owners hoping to do so can consider the following tips to ensure the process is safe and smooth.

• Fix any issues with the vehicle. The competition to attract buyers' attention will be steep. Private sellers will have to contend with the hesitation buyers naturally have about preowned vehicles as well as dealerships that specialize in used car sales. Dealerships typically offer preowned vehicle warranties that guarantee the life of certain components. To compete against such offerings, private sellers must make every effort to fix issues with their vehicles prior to putting them up for sale. Mechanical issues must be addressed, but cosmetic issues like cracks in the windshield, dents or scratches on the vehicle exterior and even aging tires should be fixed/replaced as well.

• Prepare a maintenance portfolio. A portfolio of maintenance receipts can impress buyers and reassure them that the car has been well-maintained. Receipts for oil changes, annual tune-ups, repairs that were made, and even receipts for new tires can be included in the portfolio.

· Screen prospective buyers. The automotive experts at Kelley Blue Book recommend that sellers insist on speaking with serious buyers over the phone prior to scheduling a test drive. Such conversations give sellers a chance to vet buyers about what they're looking for and whether or not they've arranged financing. KBB advises sellers to be wary of buyers who offer to purchase vehicles sight unseen.

· Contact your insurance provider. Prospective buyers will want to test drive the vehicle, so contact your insurance provider to confirm that your coverage extends to other drivers. Some companies may request that you get a copy of prospective buyers' drivers licenses. If such a request is made by your provider, mention that to buyers when speaking with them on the phone.

Meet at a public location. When scheduling a test drive, insist on meeting at a public location away from your home, such as a grocery store parking lot. The test drive can begin and end at this location. This measure is designed to keep sellers safe.

 Insist buyers make financial arrangements on their own.
 When a buyer agrees to purchase the vehicle, KBB recommends that sellers insist they make financial arrangements on their own. In addition, KBB suggests asking buyers to put down a deposit and get back in touch when they're ready to conclude the sale.

Private sellers can take various measures to ensure the process of selling their vehicles goes safely and smoothly.





WHAT NOISY BRAKES MAY BE TELLING YOU

The only noises many drivers ever want to hear coming from their vehicles are the sounds of their favorite songs blasting from their car stereos. But cars sometimes make noises that aren't nearly as inviting as music.

Noises that seem to pop up when applying the brakes can be especially scary for motorists. No one wants to drive a vehicle with faltering or suspect brakes, so learning to distinguish between the two most common brake noises can be a wise move for drivers.

Grinding brakes

The automotive retailer Pep Boys® notes that grinding noises indicate a serious problem with the braking

system. According to CarsDirect.com, there are two major causes behind the grinding noise made by brakes. If the grinding sound is audible when pressing on the brake pedal, this likely because the rotor disc is coming into contact with part of the caliper. This typically occurs because the brake pads or rotors are extremely worn down, causing the steel backing of the worn out pad to grind against the rotor. In such instances, Pep Boys® recommends replacing the brake pads immediately.

If the grinding noise is audible while the vehicle is in motion, debris might be stuck inside the brakes. Drivers might be able to dislodge this debris by repeatedly moving their cars forward and backward in a safe place, such as a driveway. If that does not work, have the brakes serviced by a qualified mechanic.

Squealing

Many drivers are familiar with the high-pitched squealing sound that comes from their vehicles or those of fellow motorists. That squeal, while certainly not music to the ears, might be a good thing. That's because Pep Boys® notes that some brake pads are equipped with small steel clips that serve as wear indicators. When brake pads have worn down, these devices produce a squealing sound to let drivers know it's time to get new brake pads.

But squealing can be indicative of other things as well. Squealing noises are sometimes heard immediately after brake pads or rotors have been replaced. In such instances, the noise typically subsides within a day or two once the pads have been broken in.

Glazed pads also can create a squealing sound. When calipers stick, the brakes stay partially applied, producing excessive friction or heat. The heat causes the brake pads to glaze.

No one wants to hear noises coming from their brakes. However, such noises are often a car's way of telling drivers that brakes need to be serviced.



Community**VOICE** Page 19

PARKLAND RCMP ARREST TWO AFTER LOCATING STOLEN VEHICLE

Submitted by Parkland RCMP

Wabamun, Alta. - On March 19, 2021 at 3:00 a.m., Parkland RCMP were advised that Air One, from the Edmonton Police Service, was following a vehicle that had been stolen out of Edmonton. Parkland RCMP attempted to stop the suspect vehicle, however, the driver of the vehicle refused to stop for police.

Air One continued to follow and advised the suspect vehicle entered the hamlet of Wabamun. Using covert methods, the RCMP were able to successfully disable the vehicle. Two suspects fled the scene on foot and were apprehended after RCMP Police Dog Services (PDS) were deployed.

The female suspect, Taylor Robulak (34) from Iron Springs, Alta. and Royston Watson (37) from Golden, B.C. are charged with:

Flight from peace officer
Dangerous operation of a motor vehicle

• Possession of property obtained by crime over \$5000

Both are scheduled to appear in Stony Plain Provincial Court on May 12, 2021.

THANK YOU COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS

Submitted by Gerald Soroka, MP for Yellowhead

March 22, 2021

OTTAWA: Gerald Soroka, Member of Parliament for Yellowhead, was pleased to recognize community volunteers in the House of Commons during Members' Statements.

He said:

"Madam Speaker, today I am proud to recognize the great work of volunteers in my riding of Yellowhead. I want to give special recognition to the brand-new food pantry at the Edson United Church who have already been supplying free nutritious hot meals to the community. I recently had the opportunity to visit the church and it was fantastic to see the shelves stocked and volunteers in action. It is working in co-operation with the Edson food bank, so they are not duplicating services and the community gets the best of both organizations.

Another fantastic initiative I would like to recognize is Edson's new shelter pods for the town's homeless population. Once completed, this project will help some of Edson's homeless find a safe and warm place to stay. These shelter pods are a commendable initiative that should be considered in all corners of the country.

I am proud to represent a riding with such great organizations that have a strong sense of community and support people who are in need. Keep up the great work."



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LAC STE ANNE REAL ESTATE ONOWAY 780-967-3335 SANGUDO 780-785-2444 DAVID LOWE Direct: 780-699-3814 **CENTURY 21** Toll Free: 866-685-2444 E-Mail: davidjlowe@live.com Masters "Each office is independently owned and operated ONOWAY BUNGALOW ALBERTA BEACH DOUBLE LOT EXECUTIVE 2 STOREY In EVANSBURG 1/3 acre site! Level & cleared, ready for development. 3 Bdrm + Den (could be 4th Bdrm) Gas Fireplace & 3 bedrooms, 1 Bath. New flooring & paint Fully serviced - well, power & natural gas already on Gorgeous Spiral Staircase. 5 Appliances. 1-4pc Bath. throughout. Over-sized single garage with 1-2pc Bath, 2499 Sq. Ft. Home. Dbl. Att. Heated Garage. 1.1 Acre Lot Near the Pembina Prov. Park back lane access and a front drive car port. site. Build your new dream home and live at the lake! Cold storage room. Wheelchair accessible. Close to the public boat launch, school & shopping. MLS# E4193416 \$399,900 MLS# E4202862 MLS# E4227568 \$194,900 \$119,900 LESSARD LANDING AKESIDE LOTS **NEW LISTING RICH VALLEY MODULAR on 9.19 ACRES** LAKESIDE LOTS AVAILABLE! LAKEFRONT 12 ACRES 1380 Sq. ft., 3 Bdrm, 2 bath home in private setting, 2017 Renos Lot over 1 acre with power, gas & phone at property lines. Nearly 3/8 mile of shoreline @ Brock Lake! New biffy and with upgrades including vinyl windows, laminate flooring, HE furnace, HWT, plumbing, septic pump (2020), insulation. cantilevered dock. Secluded but secure with excellent lake view building site. 11 kms south of Sangudo, 1 mile Close to the sub-division boat launch & picnic area. Fully treed & private acreages. A great place to build your new roof. Full unfinished basement has wood heater.

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March 30, 2021

Community**VOICE** Page 21



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

to solve the puzzle!

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

AI	45	N	/E	R		1		2	S.
1	2	7	9	3	5	6	4	8	1
4	3	5	2	6	8	1	9	7	2
9	6	8	1	4	7	3	2	5	3
8	9	6	3	5	4	2	7	1	2
3	1	4	7	9	2	5	8	6	2
7	5	2	6	8	1	4	3	9	8
5	8	1	4	2	9	7	6	3	0
2	7	3	8	1	6	9	5	4	1
6	4	9	5	7	3	8	1	2	
	12	10	22	22	1.5	1	11	22	

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

BETIME THE



Page 22 CommunityVOICE



March 30, 2021

Community**VOICE** Page 23



