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## March 24, 2020

### STATE OF THE COUNTY

#### A MESSAGE FROM REEVE JOE BLAKEMAN AND LAC STE. ANNE COUNTY COUNCIL

Submitted by Lac Ste. Anne County

In the midst of what is undoubtedly a period of rapid change and uncertainty for all, Lac Ste. Anne County Council wishes to reaffirm

its commitment to keeping citizens engaged, informed and safe. The novel coronavirus (COVID-19) has in fact made its way into our region. As a team, we will focus on mitigating its immediate threats, and as a team

we will all work toward the overarching goal of getting Lac Ste. Anne County back to business as usual.

*Continued on Page 2*

### ONOWAY REGIONAL FIRE SERVICE 2019 YEAR END STATS

Submitted by NORTH WEST FIRE RESCUE - ONOWAY

OUR 2019 NUMBERS ARE IN!

Four-years ago when North West Fire Rescue began operating as Onoway Regional Fire Services, we pledged openness and transparency to the committee that governs us and the community at large.

As part of this mandate, each year we report directly to the 10-communities we protect on matters ranging from response times to financial stability (making just enough to replace cap-

ital equipment when needed). Following are our 2019 statistics:

- AVERAGE TIME FROM PAGE TO ROLL: 2.5 MINUTES
- AVERAGE TIME TO SCENE: URBAN 7MIN / RURAL 13MIN
- MOST CALLS: MEDICAL AID (FREE) THEN MVC (BACKING UP LSACFS) CALL TYPES
- Medical Aid: 135
- Residential Alarms: 19
- Outside Fires: 6
- Motor Vehicle Collisions: 42
- Commercial Alarms: 6
- Gas Leaks: 2
- Structure Fires: 3

- Vehicle Fires: 6
- Smoke Investigation: 0
- Flood / Water Damage: 0
- Citizen Assist: 2
- Electrical Hazards: 3
- HAZMAT: 0
- Technical Rescue: 2
- TOTAL CALL OUTS: 226
- VOLUNTEER HOURS
- Formal Fire Education: 3,300 hours
- Practice Nights: 1,600 hours
- Community Service: 1,100 hours
- No-Charge Calls: 702 hours
- Total Volunteer Hours: 6,702 hours

*Continued on Page 18*

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# STATE OF THE COUNTY

*Continued from Page 1*

Accordingly, we fully support our senior administration team, communicators, Firefighters and First Responders, Peace Officers and Public Works personnel and all other staff for their steadfast focus on the issues at hand, and for their resourcefulness and quick thinking when pivoting is required.

To all County community members: we are changing how we do business in the short term as follows:

- Lac Ste. Anne County's Emergency Operations Center is operational and continues to monitor the COVID-19 situation as it unfolds.
- The County office is closed to the public, but regular business will continue to be conducted via telephone, and via this website.

• Where possible, notices of new procedures will be posted at County buildings and public spaces. Current versions of new County procedures will be posted at LSAC.ca/COVID-19.

• Solid Waste Utility Bills have been postponed until further notice.

• All essential services such as road maintenance, water refill stations, and transfer station access will be provided and remain open. County Enforcement Officers will remain on duty patrolling the communities.

• Fire Permits are still required; however, Fire Guardians will not be attending individual properties. We ask that any requests be phoned into the County Fire Services Department.

• Regularly scheduled County Council, MPC and ASB meetings have been postponed until further

notice. Meetings may resume in April barring any COVID-19 developments.

We sincerely thank the public for their understanding and support as we deal with this evolving public health issue. We will get through this together, and once we do the fabric of our

communities will be stronger than before.

Council also wishes to thank staff and administration at every level. We are truly honoured to represent a group of people who work so selflessly and steadfastly on behalf of the County and its citizens.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**


**MOTOR VEHICLE DOCUMENT EXTENSION**

SERVICE ALBERTA

As part of the Government of Alberta's response to COVID-19, expiry dates for driver's licences, certificates of vehicle registration and other permits, including knowledge and road test permits, have been extended until May 15, 2020.

As per the Operator Licensing and Vehicle Control Regulation, Albertans with expiry dates between March 17, 2020 and May 14, 2020 now have until 11:59 p.m. on May 15, 2020 to renew expiring or expired documents. Residents subject to this extension are encouraged to renew their motor vehicle documents prior to May 15, 2020.

Visit Alberta.ca for additional information.




**INVITATION TO APPLY TO BECOME AN EXTERNAL MEMBER OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE**

The Northern Gateway Public Schools Board of Trustees is seeking two community members, 1) with financial expertise and business knowledge, and 1) community member at large to serve on its Audit Committee for a term ending October 2022.

The Audit Committee is comprised of three Trustees and two independent members drawn from the community at large. The primary role of the Audit Committee is to assist the Board of Trustees in fulfilling its duties related to governance and oversight.

The Audit Committee duties fall under the following key areas:

- The financial reporting process
- Internal control framework
- Risk management practices
- Performance & function of the Board's external auditors
- The Board's compliance with its obligations under legislation

The Committee meets 2 times a year, plus ad hoc meetings as required. Induction training material will be available to all committee members, to clarify roles and responsibilities of audit committees for the school board sector. 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:**  
Suitable qualified candidates interested in serving on the Audit Committee are invited to submit a letter of interest and resume by 4:00 PM on March 31, 2020 to:

**Tamara Spong, Secretary Treasurer**  
Northern Gateway Public Schools  
Box 840, 4816 - 49 Ave. Whitecourt, AB, T7S 1N8 or  
email: tamara.spong@ngps.ca

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**No contracts Accepted After September 1, 2020**

# PARTNERING FOR ECONOMIC SUPPORT AND RECOVERY

## Submitted by Town of Whitecourt

MARCH 20, 2020

The Town of Whitecourt, Whitecourt & District Chamber of Commerce, and Community Futures Yellowhead East are committed to supporting local business during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"My heart goes out to our local businesses and employees that have been af-

ected by this pandemic and the recent restrictions placed on their operations. I know many local businesses have also had to make the difficult decision to close temporarily for the safety of their employees," stated Mayor Maryann Chichak. "Our current situation is unlike any other our world has faced; and while it continues to evolve daily, know that Whitecourt is and will be doing every-

thing in our power, and in partnership with the federal and provincial governments, to minimize the impact."

There are a number of new and existing resources that are available to local businesses that will provide support at this time. Whitecourt and our partners have compiled information to provide easy access to our community, and the information is accessible on the Whitecourt

website at [www.whitecourt.ca/Business/EconomicSupportandRecovery](http://www.whitecourt.ca/Business/EconomicSupportandRecovery).

Economic Developers Alberta is conducting an online survey for the Alberta business community in order to gather consistent, high level data on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The information gathered will be shared to show overall trends on immediate needs and the resources required. All Whitecourt and region businesses and entrepreneurs are encouraged to participate in this survey.

- <https://edaalberta.wufoo.com/forms/r19ded0919e-a64b>

"The primary goal of the Whitecourt & District Chamber of Commerce is supporting our business community," added Jody Collins, Whitecourt & District Chamber of Commerce President. "We are utilizing programs and resources to continue our work remotely, and our commitment to keeping our members informed is a priority at this time."

The Town of Whitecourt, Whitecourt & District Chamber of Commerce and Community Futures Yellowhead East will continue to advocate to provincial and federal governments for support measures to assist Whitecourt industry and businesses both now and into the future as we work to ensure an economic recovery takes place as soon as possible.

For more information, please contact:

- Rhonda Hough, Economic Development Officer for Town of Whitecourt, [rhonda-hough@whitecourt.ca](mailto:rhonda-hough@whitecourt.ca)

- Dana Severson, Executive Director for Whitecourt & District Chamber of Commerce, [manager@whitecourtchamber.com](mailto:manager@whitecourtchamber.com)

- Michelle Jones, General Manager for Community Futures Yellowhead East, [mjones@albertacf.com](mailto:mjones@albertacf.com)

## NOTICE

### 2020 EQUUS Annual General Meeting

The 2020 Annual General Meetings have been postponed due to the current COVID-19 outbreak. The health and safety of EQUUS members, their guests, and the rural communities that EQUUS serves is a priority for the EQUUS Board of Directors. The decision to postpone the meetings was made in accordance with that priority and with the recommendations of provincial health authorities.

Once new dates are available, members who had reserved their seats will be contacted and all members will be notified in their monthly newsletter. EQUUS members can still RSVP for the rescheduled meetings if they wish using the information available below.

If you have any questions, or would like to be contacted when the meetings are rescheduled, please call 1.888.211.4011 or email [mhanson@equus.ca](mailto:mhanson@equus.ca)

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# CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) UPDATE FOR WHITECOURT

## Submitted by Town of Whitecourt

The Town of Whitecourt is taking further actions as a precaution to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) situation.

As a precaution, the Emergency Management Plan has been activated and there has been a partial activation of Whitecourt's Emergency Coordination Centre (ECC). The ECC activation allows Town management to provide community responses that support Alberta Health recommendations, and protects and assists our residents and staff during this event.

### Facility closures

The nature of services offered in some Town facilities result in an inability to enforce recommended social distancing practices. Additionally, there are limited staffing numbers, making service maintenance challenging if illness were to spread.

Effective Wednesday, March 18, the follow facilities will be open to staff so that a level of service can be maintained to the community, but closed to the public until further notice:

- Town Office - Staff will be available to answer questions via telephone during regular hours of operation at 780-

778-2273. Payments made by cheque can be deposited in the drop box at the front entrance of the Town Office, and residents are encouraged to use the online payment system accessible via [www.whitecourt.ca](http://www.whitecourt.ca). Any meetings with Town of Whitecourt employees will be moved to phone, online or email based communications.

- Whitecourt Fire Hall - Closed to the public and special measures are being taken to ensure the continuation of emergency response. There is no change in the level of service provided to the community.

- Public Works Shop - Closed

to the public; there is no change in the level of service provided to the community.

Effective March 16, the following facilities were closed to the public, and remain closed until further notice:

- Allan & Jean Millar Centre - Account credits will be provided to those affected by registered program postponements. Prorated credits will be given to individuals registered in programs that were already underway. Annual and continuous monthly memberships will be placed on hold during this time.

*Continued on Page 13*

## COVID-19 INFORMATION

# HELP PREVENT THE SPREAD



Self-isolate if sick



Wash hands frequently



Practice social distancing



Cover coughs and sneezes



Keep surfaces clean

[alberta.ca/covid19](http://alberta.ca/covid19)



# NORTHWEST FIRE RESCUE - ONOWAY



## FIREFIGHTER ATTENDANCE AWARD RESULTS 2019

Onoway Regional Fire Services (ORFS) tracks member participation and attendance to any and all fire department related events and callouts. At the end of the year, a cash prize is given to those who rank first, second and third. This prize only applies to volunteers and does not include officers salaried by the industrial division.



The First Place award goes to Acting Lieutenant **Ashley Ives**

ALT Ives managed to end the year with 265 attendance points!

She will be awarded a \$2,000.00 cash prize for her valuable service.



ALT Ashley Ives has been a firefighter for over 12 years. She began her fire service career with Lac Ste. Anne County District 3 (Rich Valley) in 2007. She is one of the longest standing members in the department. She currently lives in Lac Ste. Anne.



The Second Place award goes to Acting Lieutenant **Christophir Alden**

ALT Alden ended the year with 139 attendance points!

He will be awarded a \$1,000.00 cash prize for his valuable service.



ALT Chris Alden has been a firefighter for 3 years and began his firefighting career with ORFS in 2017. He has since acquired a vast array of advanced fire service officer and instructor qualifications. He currently lives in Lac Ste. Anne County.



Third Place goes to Senior Firefighter **Jo-Anne Sundmark**

SFF Sundmark ended the year with 125 attendance points!

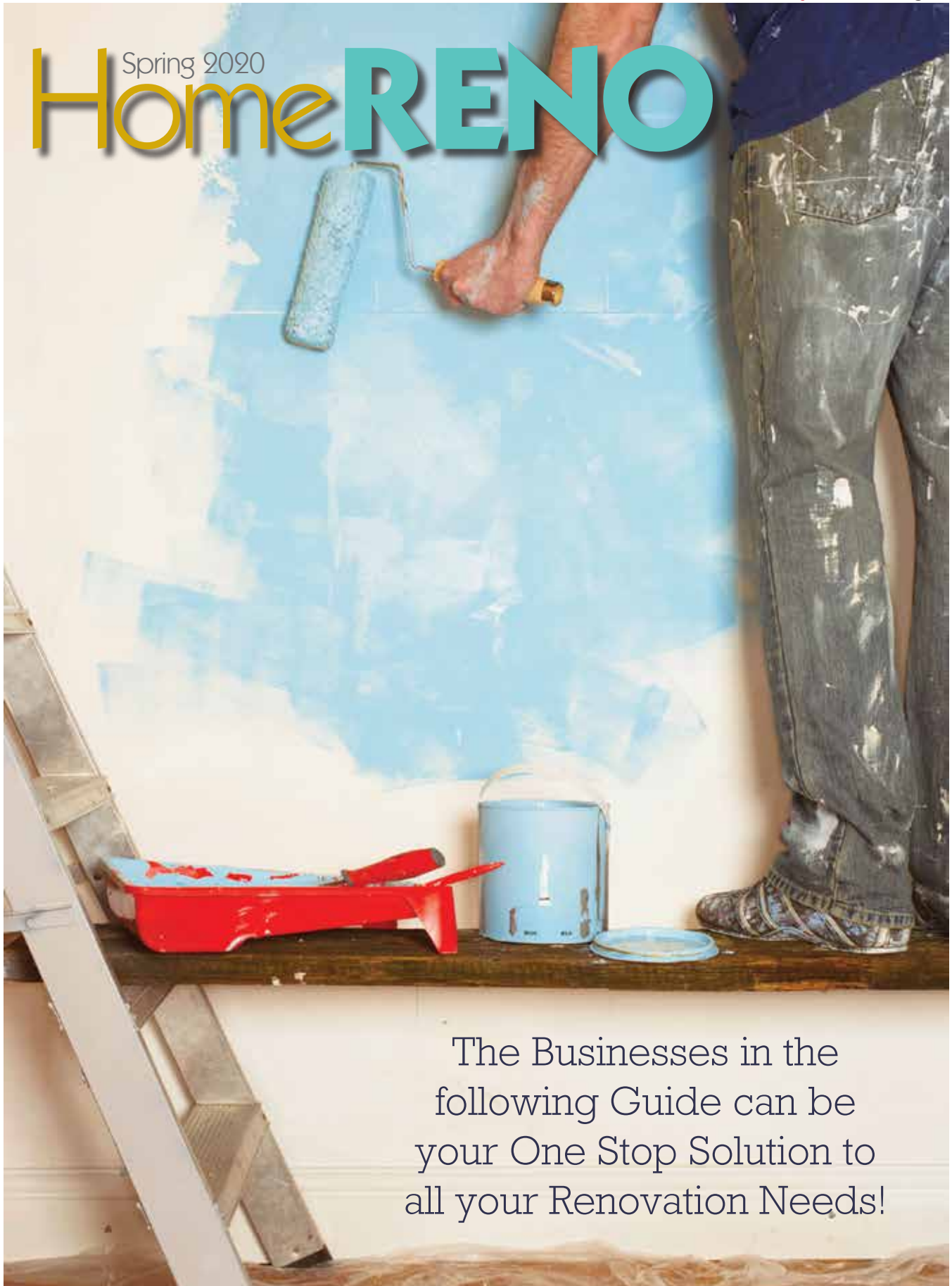
She will be awarded a \$500.00 cash prize for her valuable service.



SFF Jo-Anne Sundmark has been a firefighter for 3 years and began her firefighting career with ORFS in 2017. She has always been a reliable team player and facilitates many of our community events. She lives in the Summer Village of Yellowstone.

*Please help us in congratulating the winners this year for their dedicated service to the community!*

# Spring 2020 Home**RENO**



The Businesses in the following Guide can be your One Stop Solution to all your Renovation Needs!



## WHAT TO KNOW ABOUT DIY INSULATION

Perhaps due in part to the popularity of home improvement television shows, many homeowners now tackle an assortment of home projects without professional assistance. These weekend warriors embrace the do-it-yourself philosophy to home improvement, saving lots of money along the way.

As rewarding as successful DIY projects can be, it's important that homeowners avoid getting in over their heads. Some projects, such as those that involve plumbing or roofing, tend to be best left to the professionals. But many other projects, including insulation installation, are very DIY-friendly.

Can I install insulation myself?

The Insulation Institute notes that DIY insulation installation is definitely doable, though typically only when homeowners are installing certain types of insulation. The Institute notes

that installing fiberglass or mineral wool insulation can be simple. However, homeowners who prefer spray foam insulation should leave installation to the professionals.

What should I do before beginning the project?

The Insulation Institute advises homeowners who are going to install insulation to determine if vapor retarders, sometimes referred to as "vapor barriers," will need to be installed before they begin the project. Vapor diffusion retarders can reduce the amount of moisture transferred by air currents, but they are not always necessary. Factors such as climate, cladding type (i.e., brick, stucco, wood, etc.) and the location of the wall being insulated will help homeowners determine if they need vapor diffusion retarders. Homes located in places with mixed climates often

need vapor diffusion retarders. DIYers can visit [www.insulationinstitute.org](http://www.insulationinstitute.org) to learn more or consult with an insulation or watersealing professional to determine if they need vapor diffusion retarders.

Determining R-value is another important pre-project step. Different climates require different insulation R-values, which the U.S. Department of Energy notes is a measurement of an insulating material's resistance to conductive heat flow. The higher the R-value, the greater the insulation effectiveness. The amount of R-value your insulation needs will depend on the climate, the existing heating and cooling system in the house and which part of the house you will be insulating. More information about R-value is available at [energy.gov/energysaver/weatherize/insulation](http://energy.gov/energysaver/weatherize/insulation).

DIYers also will need the ap-

propriate tools and attire before beginning an insulation installation project. In addition to the insulation itself, the online resource The Home Improvement Web® recommends the following tools:

- Safety glasses
- Dust mask or respirator
- Stapler (electric, standard, or hammer type)
- 3/8" or 1/2" staples
- Protective clothing
- Work light
- Tape measure
- Extension cord
- Utility knife and extra blades
- Stepladder(s)
- Straightedge for cutting insulation

DIYers can access any number of insulation installation tutorials online to determine if they can install insulation without hiring professionals.

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# DECOR IDEAS FOR A FRESH LOOK THIS SPRING

Spring is a season of rejuvenation, and that spirit of renewal can take hold inside a home.

Warm weather and longer hours of daylight make spring a perfect time to imagine a home's interior design in a new light. The following are a handful of decor ideas that may inspire homeowners to give their homes an entirely new look this spring.

- **Wallpaper:** Wallpaper fell out of favor years ago, but new styles that aren't so heavily patterned can make for wonderful additions to any room. Large-scale prints can give a room a whole new feel without giving homeowners or their guests the impression that they have stepped back in time. A simple, mural-style floral wallpaper on the walls surrounding a table in a breakfast nook can bring nature inside.

- **Pastel colors:** Nothing em-

bodies the spring quite like pastel colors. If colorful, bright flowers dot the garden in the backyard, homeowners can bring those uplifting pastels inside by painting an accent wall or even adding some brightly colored accent furniture to rooms that could use a lift.

- **Declutter:** Clutter is often conquered during spring cleaning sessions, but homeowners who want to create more free-flowing interior spaces can downsize their furniture and/or look for multipurpose features that make it hard for clutter to take over a room. Create more open space in entertaining areas by mounting the television and getting rid of a bulky entertainment center. Create even more space by replacing rarely used end tables with a storage ottoman where books and magazines can be stored to give a room a fresh, clean look.

- **Accent features:** Sometimes the smallest changes to an interior space make the biggest impression. Replace dated accents like vases and table lamps with newer items that reflect the latest styles and trends. Such adjustments won't break

the bank, and they can give rooms a whole new feel.

Spring is a great time to reconsider home interiors. This spring homeowners can embrace various strategies, both big and small, to give their homes a whole new feel.



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## WHAT TO EXPECT DURING A BATHROOM REMODEL

There are many reasons to renovate a home. Some homeowners purchase fixer-uppers and commit to making major renovations before they even move in, while others may renovate their homes with an eye on resale value. But many homeowners also take on renovation projects to make the homes more livable for themselves.

Bathroom renovations are popular projects. In fact, a 2018 survey from the National Association of Home Builders found that bathroom remodels are the most popular remodeling projects. But just because bathroom remodeling projects are popular doesn't mean they're easy to endure. Knowing what to expect during a bathroom remodel can help homeowners get through the renovation process.

**Cost:** Bathroom remodeling projects can be expensive. According to Remodeling magazine's "Cost vs. Value 2019" report, a mid-range bathroom remodeling project cost an average of \$20,420 in 2019, while an upscale remodel cost just under \$64,000. Homeowners should develop budgets for their bathroom renovation projects to determine which type of project they can afford. In addition, setting aside a little extra money for overruns is a wise move that can help homeowners handle any unforeseen expenses that arise during the project.

**Noise:** Few home renovation projects can be undertaken quietly, and bathroom renovations tend to generate a lot of noise. The noise can be difficult to overcome for professionals

who work from home full-time, and it also can be hard on parents of young children who still nap and don't yet go to school. Parents of young children may find it best to delay bathroom renovation projects until their children are school-aged and out of the house for most of the day on weekdays.

**Mess:** The debris generated by bathroom renovation projects is another thing homeowners must prepare for. In addition to preparing for the waste generated by the project, first-time renovators must realize that dust might be a big issue once the project begins. Dust can pose a threat to residents' overall health, particularly the health of youngsters whose bodies haven't yet fully developed. As a result, parents of young children may want to schedule renova-

tions during family vacations so their children are exposed to as little dust as possible.

**Changes:** Few renovations go off without a hitch. Once a project begins, contractors often uncover issues that weren't noticeable to the naked eye. These issues may increase the cost of completing a project or force homeowners to change their plans to make the project stay as close to their budgets as possible. Recognizing that these decisions may have to be made on the fly can help homeowners feel more prepared when unexpected issues arise.

Bathroom renovation projects are worthwhile investments. Knowing what to expect during a bathroom renovation project can help homeowners handle all the twists and turns that may arise.

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## TIPS FOR WATERPROOFING A BASEMENT OR CRAWL SPACE

Water can be a homeowner's worst nightmare. Few things have the potential to damage a home as much as water. From leaks to flooding to moisture problems like mold, water can wreak havoc on a home.

Basements or crawl spaces are areas of a home where water can do the most damage. Basements and crawl spaces tend to be the lowest-lying spots in a home, and therefore prime spots for water to enter. Water problems in these areas can contribute to the demise of the structural integrity of the foundation.

According to Olshan, a foundation solutions company, water can enter homes in numerous ways. Many building materials, including concrete, that seem solid at first glance actually are quite porous. As ground water collects around these materials,

the weight of the accumulated water, called hydrostatic pressure, can weaken the materials, causing cracks where water can seep through. Water also can enter subterranean spaces through basement windows and gaps between footings and concrete slabs, or push up through foundation floors when homes are in areas with high water tables.

Remediating water issues in a home generally breaks down into two methodologies: exterior waterproofing and interior waterproofing. Depending on the cause and severity of the water issue, one or the other, or even both, may be recommended.

Exterior waterproofing: Exterior waterproofing aims to keep water away from and out of the home. The home improvement information resource DoItYourself.com says that exterior water-

proofing generally includes the application of a waterproofing agent to the concrete foundation. In addition, exterior waterproofing also could include excavation so a drainage system can be installed around the entire footing of the home. Regrading a property and properly relocating gutters and downspouts can help with many water issues.

Interior waterproofing: When water in a basement or crawl space needs to be remediated indoors, a system to collect, drain and remove water may be necessary. This can include sump pumps, drains, gravity discharge systems, and more. Moisture barriers, which can include special paints or products applied to the foundation walls and floor, also can help keep water from entering the space.

Moisture solutions: Keeping

water out is only one part of the equation. Homeowners also need to manage moisture, like excessive humidity. A marriage of HVAC and waterproofing techniques may be necessary to improve air flow and remove humidity in the air.

While many homeowners have attempted to address water issues on their own, many times it is a job best left to the professionals. Because water penetration can have multifaceted causes, a professional can best assess the situation and create solutions that fit with homeowners' budgets and needs. The review and advice site Angie's List suggests finding at least three waterproofing companies that offer both interior and exterior waterproofing services that can provide the best ideas for fixing the issue.

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## 3 COMMON DIY MISTAKES TO AVOID

Pride tends to swell when homeowners successfully complete do-it-yourself projects on their homes. In addition to saving homeowners money, DIY projects provide a unique way for men and women to personally connect with their homes. The ability to look at a finished project and say it's a result of your own handiwork can make a

home feel more your own.

As fun and fulfilling as DIY projects can be, they also can be nerve-wracking and induce anxiety. When DIY projects falter, fixing them can prove costly, as homeowners typically must call in contractors to correct their mistakes and get a project back on track. That results in additional labor and material costs

that might have been avoidable, especially for homeowners who make an effort to avoid some common DIY mistakes.

### 1. Failure to secure permits

Even though homeowners own their homes, that does not mean they have carte blanche to do what they want with them. Many renovation projects require homeowners to secure

permits before projects can commence. Some may even require additional permits as the projects advance. If proper permits are not secured, homeowners may be fined and projects may be nixed, regardless of how much money homeowners have spent up to that point. Before beginning a home renovation project, homeowners should always contact their local permit office to determine if any permits are required. Bankrate.com notes that permits are often required for any project larger than painting or wallpapering.

### 2. Overestimating your abilities

DIY television shows make home renovation projects look easy, but reality suggests otherwise. Homeowners with little or no experience renovating a home may want to take classes before they think about starting a project on their own. Even online tutorials tend to make jobs appear easier than they are. Roofing and plumbing projects tend to be best left to the professionals, as these projects can be either dangerous or vulnerable to disaster if not addressed by trained professionals.

### 3. Incorrect materials

Whether it's to save money or a byproduct of inexperience, DIYers do not always choose the correct materials for a job. Experienced contractors have ample experience working with all sorts of materials and are therefore in a unique position to recommend the best materials for any given job. That resource is not available for DIYers, who must perform ample research before beginning a job so the project involves the most appropriate materials. Incorrect materials can be a sunken cost that derails a project, but even jobs completed using incorrect materials may need to be redone a lot more quickly than those that employed the right materials the first time.

Many home renovation projects can be completed without the help of professional contractors, especially when homeowners take steps to avoid some of the more common mistakes made by DIYers.

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# NOTES FROM THE ONOWAY LEGION

**Submitted by Richard Moses**

All Onoway Legion activities

cancelled! Until future notice, all normal activities at the Onoway Legion are cancelled. That in-

cludes the regular Dart and Pool clubs, as well as Friday night suppers. The suspension are in re-

sponse to the Covid19 crisis, and will continue indefinitely. Stay home and safe, everyone.

## Coronavirus (Covid- 19) Update For Whitecourt

*Continued from Page 5*

- Forest Interpretive Centre
- Public Works Shop
- Scott Safety Centre
- Whitecourt Public Library

The Carlan Services Community Resource Centre remains open to the public to allow for the Whitecourt Food Bank to continue to operate. The Food Bank operates Monday, Wednesday and Friday 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Whitecourt Transit and Dial A Bus services continue with increased safety measures and in place.

The Government of Canada announced that Canadians will now have until June 1 to submit their income tax return to Canada Revenue Agency. The deadline to pay off any outstanding balances interest-free will also be extended by a month, to July 31.

As declared on March 17, Alberta is now in a state of public health emergency to protect Albertans from the COVID-19 pandemic. Public health measures have been put in place by the Government of Alberta to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Effective immediately and until further notice:

• Mass gatherings now limited to no more than 50 attendees. This includes workshop gatherings and family events such as weddings. Grocery stores, shopping centres, health-care facilities, airports, the legislature and other essential services are not included.

• Albertans are prohibited from attending public recreational facilities and private entertainment facilities, including gyms, swimming pools, arenas, science centres, museums, art galleries, community centres, children's play centres, casinos, racing entertainment centres, and bingo halls. All Albertans are

restricted from attending bars/nightclubs, where minors are prohibited by law.

• Sit-down restaurants, cafés, coffee shops, food courts and other food-serving facilities, including those with a minors allowed liquor license, are limited to 50 per cent capacity to a

maximum of 50 people. Take-out, delivery or drive-through service is permitted. Licensed facilities will also be permitted to deliver liquor. At this time, not-for-profit community kitchens, soup kitchens and religious kitchens are exempt, but sanitization practices are

expected to be in place and support will be in place for this practice.

• All passenger ropeways, like gondolas and chairlifts will be closed until further notice under the Safety Codes Act.

*Continued on Page 14*



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# COVID-19 News Updates

In times of uncertainty, rest assured that as your community newspaper, we are working hard with a local, regional and national network of official resources to keep you informed and up to date on the issues and developments that matter most to you.

## Coronavirus (Covid-19) Update For Whitecourt

*Continued from Page 13*

• The Alberta Court of Queen's Bench, the Provincial Court of Alberta and the Alberta Court of Appeal are limiting services to essential and urgent functions.

All travelers who have returned from outside Canada

as of March 12, 2020 should self-isolate for 14 days and monitor for symptoms. Further, the Province is updating information regularly on flights that have had confirmed cases of COVID-19. Those that have travelled both within Canada and internationally in the last several weeks should

monitor this information. The document can be found at [www.alberta.ca/assets/documents/covid-19-flight-information.pdf](http://www.alberta.ca/assets/documents/covid-19-flight-information.pdf)

As more Albertans are being required or asked to self-isolate, having supplies is one thing you can do to help manage your situation. For a list of what the Province is recommending be prepared visit [www.alberta.ca/build-an-emergency-kit.aspx](http://www.alberta.ca/build-an-emergency-kit.aspx)

Create a household action plan: We know many may be concerned about COVID-19 and want to prepare in case you need to isolate at home. Create a household action plan by taking these steps:

- Ensure you have 72 hours worth of food, water and essentials. You don't need to stockpile supplies.

- Think about how you could meet your family's needs if you had to self-isolate (groceries,

medical needs, errands).

- Talk to relatives, friends and neighbours about their needs and how you could support each other.

- Make a list of emergency contacts.

Residents are encouraged to read through the Province's tips on precautions to take, how to help prevent the spread of COVID-19, and how households can prepare at [www.alberta.ca/COVID19](http://www.alberta.ca/COVID19)

As this situation continues to evolve, further updates will be provided to the community. Residents are advised that the Town of Whitecourt has an emergency continuity plan in place to ensure essential services continue uninterrupted.

COVID-19 information and updates are publicly available on the Alberta Health and Alberta Health Services websites:

- [www.alberta.ca/covid19](http://www.alberta.ca/covid19)
- [www.ahs.ca/covid](http://www.ahs.ca/covid)

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Visit [LSAC.ca](http://LSAC.ca) to explore the latest Lac Ste. Anne County news and events in greater detail.



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# County News Highlights

March 24, 2020  
 ASB Meeting **CANCELLED**

March 26, 2020  
 County Council Meeting **CANCELLED**

April 9, 2020  
 County Council Meeting/MPC Meeting **CANCELLED**

April 23, 2020  
 Regular County Council Meeting

*Council meetings are held the second and fourth Thursdays of each month unless otherwise noted. Meetings begin at 9:30am. Visit [LSAC.ca/agendas](http://LSAC.ca/agendas) for meeting agendas. To address Council, appointments must be booked at least 8 working days prior.*

## COVID-19 CONTINUITY OF SERVICE PLAN

### Administration Office Closures

County administration offices are closed to the public until further notice. County staff will work from home where possible, and have been advised to avoid all in-person meetings. Phone calls to the County will be fielded by the County's answering service and forwarded to the relevant department.

### Regular Service Levels

Essential services including Road Maintenance; Fire Services and Emergency Response; Water Refill Stations; and Transfer Station Access will continue to be provided. County Enforcement Officers will remain on duty and patrolling the communities.

Service will continue through phone calls, email, facsimile, regular mail and via the drop box at the County

office. Visit [LSAC.ca/Forms](http://LSAC.ca/Forms) to find the forms and resources you require. Solid Waste Utility Bills were scheduled to be sent out by March 31 but will be postponed at this time.

### Fire Permits

Fire Permits are still required. However, Fire Guardians will not be attending individual properties. Requests can be phoned in to the County Fire Services Department.

### Council Meetings

The March 26, 2020 County Council meeting and April 9, 2020 combined Municipal Planning Commission and County Council Meetings have been officially cancelled. Updates will be provided via regular County channels when they become available.

The public is thanked for their understanding as the County deals with this evolving global health issue.

## PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

### NOTICE OF DEVELOPMENT PERMIT APPROVALS

The following Development Permits have been approved or conditionally approved under the provisions of the Land Use Bylaw. This list does not include Permitted Uses. Interested parties are encouraged to contact the Planning and Development department at **1-866-880-5722** or [devassistant@lsac.ca](mailto:devassistant@lsac.ca), Monday to Friday 8:30am to 4:30pm to request additional information on a permit.

PERMIT #	LEGAL LAND DESCRIPTION	DESCRIPTION	APPEAL DEADLINE
20-D0011	308 - 55022 Ste. Anne Trail SW 11-55-03 W5M	New electrical building, main 14.0' x 22.0' (308.0 sq. ft.).	April 13, 2020

Anyone who claims to be affected and who wishes to lodge an appeal against any of the above developments must do so in writing on the applicable form on or before 4:30pm on the above noted date(s). Secretary of the Subdivision and Development Appeal Board, c/o Lac Ste. Anne County, Planning and Development department, Box 219, Sangudo, Alberta, T0E 2A0.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Lac Ste. Anne County requires that a non-refundable fee of \$250 be paid for every appeal served on the Subdivision and Development Appeal Board. The fee may be paid by Cheque, Visa, MasterCard, Interac or Cash.

## PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING **CANCELLED**

of Bylaw #13-2020 for Adoption of Majeau Lake RV Area Structure Plan

#### LOCATION OF HEARING

Council Chambers, County Office

#### DATE OF HEARING

April 9, 2020

#### TIME

11:00am

Please be advised that the above Public Hearing has been cancelled. Updates will be provided via regular County channels as they become available.



# auto TUNE-UP

## HOW TO INSPECT AND MAINTAIN VEHICLE BELTS

Responsible vehicle ownership involves taking inventory of the automobile and ensuring it is working at peak capacity. Hundreds of parts work together to keep vehicles on the road, but quite often drivers do not look under the hood until something is amiss.

Routine maintenance is widely acknowledged as a critical component of responsible vehicle ownership, but many motorists may not know how to care for their cars. Belts are one example of components that are integral to efficient, well-running vehicles. The automotive resource iDriveSafely.com indicates that belts are some of the most crucial moving parts

in the engine. Belts transmit power between shafts, and all belts, from serpentine belts to V-belts to timing belts, all serve important functions.

• **Serpentine belt:** Firestone® Complete Auto Care says a serpentine belt is a long, snaking, winding belt that keeps parts such as the water pump, alternator, power steering pump, and air conditioning running smoothly. Serpentine belts transport power to automotive accessories. A failing serpentine belt can cause enormous and expensive headaches, including overheating and loss of steering power.

• **V-belts:** Also known as drive belts, these are usually found in older vehicles. Un-

like serpentine belts, which run through various parts, V-belts run through one or two accessories. Older cars with many bells and whistles will have multiple V-belts, and should one break, it may not cause as much of an issue as if a serpentine belt were to falter.

• **Timing belt:** Advance Auto Parts says that most cars have interference engines in which the clearance between moving parts is so small that they can end up bumping into each other if they're not running on the same timing as one another. That is where the timing belt comes into play. It connects the crankshaft to the camshaft, helping them stay in sync. Failing

to pay attention to a timing belt can result in an expensive engine repair.

Belts have finite service lives, and heat and wear and tear are usually their nemesis. It is important to look for fraying or cracking of belts. Even belts that look new may have worn out grooves that lose their grips on matching pulley grooves. Mechanics often use special gauges to check belts.

Belts also may need to be replaced due to oil or grease contamination that can damage the rubber or synthetic rubber. It is important to check the owner's manual and seek advice from a qualified mechanic about when belts should be serviced.

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# auto **TUNE-UP**

## HANDLE A BREAKDOWN WITH EASE

Drivers expect their vehicles to safely transport them from point A to point B. But sometimes drivers find themselves stranded on the side of the road due to a breakdown. That can be an especially precarious position to be in, but knowing what to do during a breakdown can help drivers and their passengers get through such situations unscathed.

1. Find a safe spot to pull over. Whenever possible, guide the car to a shoulder or area out of the line of traffic but still visible to oncoming traffic. If the car is not drivable, enlist the help of someone to push it into a safe zone.

2. Turn on hazard lights. Esurance advises to put on hazard lights, which will warn other drivers that something

is wrong. Hazard lights also may alert other motorists who might offer assistance. Once your hazard lights are on, pop the hood, which can serve as an additional alert to other drivers.

3. Engage the emergency brake. Turn the wheel away from the road and put on the emergency brake to help prevent the car from rolling.

4. Set up other warning signals. Prepared drivers keep cones, reflective triangles or flares in their cars. AARP suggests placing three warning signals. The first should be 50 feet away and directly behind the vehicle. The other two can then be placed nearer to the vehicle.

5. Remain in the vehicle. It is safer to stay in the vehicle and call for help than to get out and stand on the side of

a busy roadway.

6. Call for assistance. Use a mobile phone to dial a roadside assistance service or tow truck. Drivers also may want to contact the nearest police station to ask for help.

Roadside assistance pro-

grams are available for a fee from private companies and sometimes through vehicle dealerships or insurance companies. Such services can provide peace of mind if and when breakdowns occur.

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# 12 MUNICIPALITIES SET TO FORM THE REGIONAL TRANSIT SERVICES COMMISSION

**Submitted by Parkland County**

On Wednesday March 11, 2020, the Regional Transit Services Commission (RTSC) Transition Team confirmed they have the participation needed to move forward with an application to the Government of Alberta to form a new commission.

Following the release of a business case in late January, the individual councils of all 13 Edmonton Metropolitan Region municipalities voted, throughout February and into March, on their decision to participate.

Participating Municipalities

Of the 13 eligible Edmonton Metropolitan Region municipalities, 12 have opted to join the new commission with the purpose of delivering more seamless and efficient transit services to residents in the region. Specifically, the municipalities that will be moving forward in the process include:

- City of Beaumont
- Town of Devon
- City of Edmonton
- City of Fort Saskatchewan
- City of Leduc
- Leduc County
- Town of Morinville
- Parkland County
- City of Spruce Grove
- City of St. Albert
- Town of Stony Plain
- Sturgeon County

“It is thrilling to see so many municipalities offer their support for this monumental initiative that will bring our region together and change the way public transit services are offered to so many communities,” says Councillor Wes Brodhead, Chair of RTSC Transition Team.

As reflected in the Transition Team report released on January 22, 2020, integrating municipal transit services across regional boundaries will allow all municipalities to benefit from better access to transit and is expected to improve customer experience, while delivering a more cost-

effective service by removing duplication across the network.

“This is a great step for the region! It’s exciting to see so many of our partners on board for this initiative that started with just Edmonton and St. Albert,” said Councillor Michael Walters, Co-Chair of the RTSC Transition Team. “The commission makes good sense, and I’m looking forward to seeing this established for the benefit of every community involved.”

**Next Steps**

For the municipalities who have chosen to take part in the new commission, work will begin immediately to revise the business case to reflect the anticipated membership of the 12 municipalities listed above. The development of a five-year capital plan and draft bylaws will be collaboratively developed over the coming weeks. It is anticipated that during May 2020, those municipalities who have expressed their support in joining the com-

mission will jointly submit an application to the Government of Alberta seeking approval to legally form the commission within legislation by the end of this year.

Following the submission of the application, the acting Transition Team, made up of elected officials from each participating municipality, will begin Pre-Implementation activities described in the final report, including beginning the executive search process for the CEO, developing a workforce transition plan, performing detailed contract reviews and initiating public engagement activities.

When the commission is formally stood up over 2021, detailed transit planning and public engagement activities will take place to finalize the regional transit services design, which would be implemented during 2022 through the transfer of transit services from participating municipalities to the commission.

## Onoway Regional Fire Service 2019 Year End Stats

*Continued from Page 1*

- Total Paid Hours: 862 hours

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**JOKE OF THE WEEK**

A parishioner was in front of me coming out of church one day, and the preacher was standing at the door as he always is to shake hands. He grabbed the parishioner by the hand and pulled him aside. The Pastor said to him, "You need to join the Army of the Lord!" The parishioner replied, "I'm already in the Army of the Lord, Pastor." Pastor questioned, "How come I don't see you except at Christmas and Easter?" He whispered back, "I'm in the secret service."

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- Cherhill Legion, Mary 780-785-3578.
- Cherhill Community Assoc. Hall, Kevin 780-785-8153
- Darwell Centennial Hall, 780-892-3099
- Darwell Seniors, Phone Debra 780-785-2907

Goose Lake Hall, Contact Deanna (780) 584-3738

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Hathersage Community Centre, Noreen at 786-2946

Lake Isle Community Hall, PH: 780-892-3121 or Email: lakeislehall@mail.com

Magnolia Hall, 727-2015

Manley Goodwill Community Hall, 963-9165 or 916-0146

Mayerthorpe Diamond Centre, Charlotte at 786-4659

Mayerthorpe Legion, 786-2470.

Onoway Community Hall, 967-4749.

Onoway Heritage Center - Gym/Classrooms, 967-1015

Onoway Legion, 967-4980

Park Court Community Hall, 727-4476

Parkland Village Community Centre, 780-298-9155 @ PVCCentre

Ravine Community Hall, 325-2240

Rich Valley Community Hall, 967-5710 or 967-3696

Rosenthal Community Hall, 963-7984

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# SUDOKU OF THE WEEK

## Fun By The Numbers

**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 to solve the puzzle!

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

**ANSWER:**

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

**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!



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