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April 13, 2021

ROLL BACK TO STEP 1 OF THE PATH FORWARD RELAUNCH

Submitted by Town of Mayerthorpe

The Town of Mayerthorpe is taking the COVID-19

pandemic seriously for residents, employees and patrons.

New restrictions effective April 7th included:

- Retail services and shopping malls must limit customer capacity to 15% of fire code occupancy

Continued on Page 2

NEW GTF FUNDING FOR LAC STE. ANNE-PARKLAND

Submitted by United Conservative Caucus

The federal Gas Tax Fund (GTF) is a federal funding stream that provides cap-

ital funding to municipalities to help them build and revitalize their local public infrastructure, while creating jobs and supporting long-term prosperity. This

year Alberta received \$244 million from the federal Gas Tax Fund to fund municipal projects.

Continued on Page 2

BARRHEAD RCMP ARREST SIX PEOPLE FOLLOWING A SEARCH WARRANT

Submitted by Barrhead RCMP

In March 2021, Barrhead RCMP began investigating an alleged 'chop shop' that was operating at a rural residence in Barrhead, Alta.

On April 7, 2021 with the assistance of Westlock RCMP, Eastern Alberta Dis-

trict Crime Reduction Unit, RCMP Police Dog Service and the RCMP Auto Theft Unit a search warrant was executed at the residence.

Police located and seized several stolen firearms, tools, licence plates and what is believed to be methamphetamine.

Police also located several

stolen vehicles on the property. RCMP seized a large amount of stolen property during the search warrant and continue to determine the rightful owners of the property located.

Six people were arrested and charges are pending.

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Roll Back To Step 1 Of The Path Forward Relaunch

Continued from Page 1

- Libraries must close
- Facilities used for indoor recreation may open only for individual or household one-on-one fitness training
- Team sports are not permitted
- All group fitness activities are not permitted
- Adult performance activities are not permitted

Effective April 9th at 12:00



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• In-person service is not permitted indoors for restaurants, pubs, bars, lounges, and cafes. Outdoor patio dining, takeout, curbside pickup and delivery is permitted.

At this time, all indoor gatherings are still prohibited. Outdoor social gatherings can have up to 10 people. Masks are mandatory in all indoor public places, indoor workplaces, and places of worship. For full details on new restrictions in Alberta, visit <https://www.alberta.ca/enhanced-public-health-measures.aspx>.

lic-health-measures.aspx .

Council Meetings

Regular Council, Special Council and Policies and Priorities Committee meetings will be open to the public with option for delegations to attend by Zoom.

Playgroup

Playgroup will continue at this time and will follow any future Alberta Health Services restrictions that apply to schools and daycares. The Community Services Building will be open to process Senior Income Tax and for Playgroup.

Town Office

The Town Office will be temporarily closed as of Monday, April 12, 2021 and will remain closed until the Province returns to Step 2 of the Path Forward Relaunch. Staff are available to answer inquiries by phone or e-mail, payments can be made online or placed in the 52nd Street drop box.

For further information and updates, please visit Alberta Health www.alberta.ca/covid19 or Alberta Health Services www.ahs.ca/covid

Thank you, Council and Staff

New GTF Funding for Lac Ste. Anne-Parkland

Continued from Page 1

The constituency of Lac Ste. Anne-Parkland received over \$10 million dollars in funding for projects throughout the riding. This funding will be used for bridge rehabilitation, culvert replacements, and more. This much needed funding will aid our communities within Lac Ste. Anne-Parkland to renovate existing infrastructure, while creating jobs.

"This is great news for Lac Ste. Anne-Parkland, with this new GTF funding 14 individual projects in our constituency have received funding. Not only do these projects create jobs, but they revitalize our municipality, or should I say God's country. These projects are great, all-around, for our communities and I look forward to seeing the construction once they're underway." - Shane Getson, MLA Lac Ste. Anne-Parkland

Notable projects within Lac Ste. Anne County include rehabilitating bridges on Range Road's 24, 25, 40, and 62 and on Township Road's 583 and 590. Collectively these bridge upgrades received over \$500,000

in funding. Lac Ste. Anne County will also be replacing the bridge culverts on Range Road 55 and Township Road's 583 and 590, with the over \$400,000 they received from the GTF fund.

Parkland County has received over \$9 million in funding for two major projects including the replacement of the bridge on range Road 64, and to upgrade and rehabilitate Parkland County Transfer Station and Recycling Center.

The Town of Mayerthorpe received almost \$400,000 to replace their watermain along 45 street, and Summer Village of Silver Sands receive over \$50,000 to upgrade their stormwater drain on Willow Avenue.

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JOKE of the week

A woman gets on a bus with her baby. The bus driver says, "That's the ugliest baby that I've ever seen. Ugh!"

The woman goes to the rear of the bus and sits down, fuming.

She says to a man next to her, "The driver just insulted me!" The man says, "You go right up there and tell him off – go ahead, I'll hold your monkey for you."

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MORINVILLE RCMP LAY HISTORICAL SEXUAL ASSAULT CHARGES FROM THE LEGAL / STURGEON COUNTY AREA

Submitted by Morinville RCMP

Legal / Sturgeon County, Alta – Morinville RCMP after a thorough investigation from two separate complainants laid charges on an adult male from Sturgeon County, Alberta. The incidents allegedly occurred between

the years of 1995 to 1999. The victims were teenagers at the time of the offences.

As a result of the investigation, 53-year-old Richard Tremblay has been charged with two counts of sexual assault and one count of while being a person in trust or authority did touch a young person for a sexual purpose.

Richard Tremblay's next court date in Morinville Provincial Court is May 12, 2021

Morinville RCMP admires the courage of victims reporting incidents similar to this and encourage others to do this same.

If you would like to report similar incidents or any other illegal activity, please call

the Morinville RCMP at 780-939-4520 or call your local police. If you wish to remain anonymous, you can contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS), online at www.P3Tips.com (<http://www.p3tips.com/>) or by using the "P3 Tips" app available through the Apple App or Google Play Store.

COMMENTS ON BILL C-7

Submitted by Gerald Soroka, MP for Yellowhead

Gerald Soroka, Member of Parliament for Yellowhead commented on Bill C-7 'An Act to amend the Criminal Code (medical assistance in dying) after the votes were tallied.

"Tonight, MPs voted on Bill C-7 in the House of Com-

mons. I have received many questions via email as to how I voted from both those in favour of the Bill and those against.

Prior to voting on Bill C-7 Conservatives tried to introduce an amendment to remove the expansion of MAID eligibility to those with mental illness. I supported this amendment in an effort to

ensure we are not putting our most vulnerable at risk. Unfortunately, this amendment was defeated by the Liberals and the Bloc.

On Bill C-7 itself I thoroughly examined the legislation and thought about the different perspectives constituents raised with me on this issue. However, without safeguards to protect those that are men-

tally ill I could not in good conscience support this Bill.

I believe in extreme circumstances when someone is in pain and all other options have been exhausted, we must allow people access to MAID. This Bill however is too wide reaching and puts vulnerable populations at risk. I was disappointed to see this legislation passed."

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, Monday to Friday 8:30am to 4:30pm to request additional information on a permit.

PERMIT #	LEGAL LAND DESCRIPTION	DESCRIPTION	APPEAL DEADLINE
21-D0062	Lot 5, Block 4, Plan 7622324 Birchwood Estates within NW 20-54-04 W5M 39, 4418 HWY 633	Stick Built Cabin on screw piles, Main 36.0' x 34.0' (1224.0 sq. ft.) 8.0' walls, Side Yard Variance Regulation: 6.0m Requested: 4.88m Variance: 1.12m	April 26, 2021
21-D0066	Lot 5, Block 5, Plan 7920270 Birchwood Estates within NW 20-54-04 W5M 128, 4418 HWY 633	1994 Cardinal Cobra RV trailer with Variance, Side Yard Variance Regulations: 6.0m Requested: 1.83m Variance: 4.17m Other	April 26, 2021
21-D0071	Lot 10, Block 3, Plan 0326055 Heather Downs within SE 4-54-2 W5M 102, 2306 TWP RD 540	2018 Modular Home on a walkout basement with deck, Main 70.0' x 24.0' (1680.0 sq. ft.), Basement 70.0' x 24.0' (1680.0 sq. ft.), Deck 16.0' x 24.0' (384.0 sq. ft.)	April 26, 2021

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 & Development department, Box 219, Sangudo, Alberta, T0E 2A0.

PLEASE NOTE: Lac Ste. Anne County requires that a non-refundable fee of \$250.00 be paid for every appeal served on the Subdivision and Development Appeal Board. Fees may be paid by Cheque, Visa, MasterCard, Interac or Cash.

Letter to the EDITOR

I received a very nice letter in the mail from the County of Lac Ste Anne with the 2021 Solid Waste Utility bill. What a pleasant surprise when I read that the rate for this year has gone up 7% over 2020. The explanation for the increase is "due to a shortfall in revenue". I wonder how many tax payers in the County have had a shortfall in revenue this year, and how many have

received a 7% increase in salary or pensions to offset the shortfall. I know what the response would be if I wrote to my pension provider and said I needed an increase in my pension because I've had a shortfall in revenue! I would bet almost no one has received a 7% increase in income, except perhaps senior County administration staff. Perhaps the county council need-

ed to look at a decrease in costs to offset the shortfall, and not an increase in fees on the backs of hardworking residents of the county.

I think it is time that the county, elected officials and senior management staff, started to care about the residents whom they are supposed to serve and take a serious look at how the county spends our tax and utility dollars. I would

suggest that the first place to look at a decrease in expenses is councillor remuneration and senior administration staff salaries and benefits.

I know that I will be seriously considering this and other issues when I cast my vote in the upcoming fall county election.

Cliff Cottingham
Lakewood Estates.

PARKLAND RCMP ARREST SUSPECT FOR TRAFFICKING CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES

Submitted by Parkland RCMP

Onoway, Alta. - On April 8, 2021 at 3:15 a.m. Parkland RCMP responded to the report of suspicious vehicles parked on a rural private driveway in the area of Onoway.

Parkland RCMP identified Jeffery Russell (37) of Drayton Valley, Alta. as a driver of one of the vehicles. A 34-year-old female from Seba Beach, Alta. was the driver of the other vehicle.

Initially during the investigation, the 34-year-old female provided a false name and was subsequently charged with obstructing

justice. Her first appearance is scheduled for June 2, 2021 at Stony Plain Provincial Court. She cannot be named at this point in time as her court documents are still in the process of being sworn.

Jeffery Russell has prior charges involving weapons and is not to have weapons in his possession. He was found to be in possession of a weapon and was arrested for failing to comply with this condition. Further investigation found Jeffery Russell with a substantial amount of controlled substances and drug paraphernalia. Investigators located approximately 10000 street

doses of methamphetamine, fentanyl, cocaine and LSD.

Jeffery Russell is charged with:

- Possession for the purpose of trafficking - methamphetamine
- Possession for the purpose of trafficking - crack cocaine
- Possession for the purpose of trafficking - fentanyl
- Possession for the purpose of trafficking - LSD
- Weapons possession contrary to order and fail to surrender authorization

Jeffery Russell was held for a judicial interim hearing and was released. His

first appearance is April 28, 2021 at Stony Plain Provincial Court.

Parkland RCMP encourage residents to continue to call in suspicious vehicles and persons. If you suspect suspicious activity please contact the Parkland RCMP Detachment at 825-220-7267 or your local police. 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.

ALBERTA RCMP MAJOR CRIMES UNIT INVESTIGATE SUSPICIOUS DEATH

Submitted by Alberta RCMP

Sturgeon County, Alta. - On April 6, 2021 at 12:10 a.m., Morinville Detachment members responded to complaint of a suspicious death where human remains were located in a burnt vehicle in the area of Range Road 242 (66 Street) just south of Township Road 542 in Sturgeon County.

The death has been deemed suspicious and the Alberta RCMP Major Crimes Unit is now investigating with the assistance from the RCMP Forensic Identification Unit, the Morinville RCMP General Investigation Section and the Office of the Fire Investigator.

An autopsy has been ordered and will be conducted later this week by the Office of the Chief Medical Exam-

iner. The cause of death has not yet been determined.

The RCMP is requesting the public's assistance and would like to speak with anyone who were in the area of 66 Street between Anthony Henday and Valour Avenue on Monday April 5, 2021, between 10:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m.

In addition, the RCMP is looking for any dash camera footage, or information on suspicious vehicles and/

or persons that may have been in the area at that time.

Please contact the Morinville RCMP at 780-939-4520 or your local police. 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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ALUS LAC STE. ANNE – LOOKING FOR NEW PARTICIPANTS

Submitted by ALUS

The Alternative Land Use Services (ALUS) program is looking for agricultural producers in Lac Ste. Anne County! The ALUS program is designed to support local farmers in creating conservation project on their farm, without disrupting day to day farm operations. This often looks like: resting margin-

al land and leaving it for the wildlife, fencing off creeks and wetlands to keep livestock out, and planting native trees and shrubs. The ALUS program cost shares these projects, providing \$3 per meter of fencing and \$3,750 towards alternate watering systems. The program is completely voluntary and the farmer retains ownership of the land and nothing goes



on title.

Despite COVID, 2020 was very successful for the Lac Ste. Anne ALUS program. We enrolled 160 acres with 7 new participants and protect wetlands, riparian areas and mature forests. We helped establish 5.7km of fencing and 5 new watering systems. We

are grateful for farmers' commitment to growing locally produced, wholesome food while taking good care of the environment. If you think a project like this could fit into your farm, please reach out to Megan at 780-203-2966 (cell) or 780-785-3411 (office) or alus@lsac.ca (email).



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PROPOSED GREEN AND INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY BUILDINGS PROGRAM

Submitted by Gerald Soroka, MP for Yellowhead

OTTAWA: Gerald Soroka, Member of Parliament for Yellowhead, wishes to advise that Infrastructure Canada will be providing up to \$1.5

billion in federal funding for community buildings that will support retrofits, repairs or upgrades of existing public buildings and the construction of new public buildings that serve communities across Canada. This initiative will also support economic growth and job creation and building more inclusive communities where all Canadians have opportunities to thrive.

Please note that this proposed program is still in development and is not accepting funding applications at this time.

Provincial, territorial and local governments, not-for-profit and Indigenous organizations are invited to provide ideas on potential priorities to Infrastructure Canada through the online program development questionnaire at: <https://www.infrastructure.gc.ca/gicb-bcvi/questionnaire/index-eng.html>

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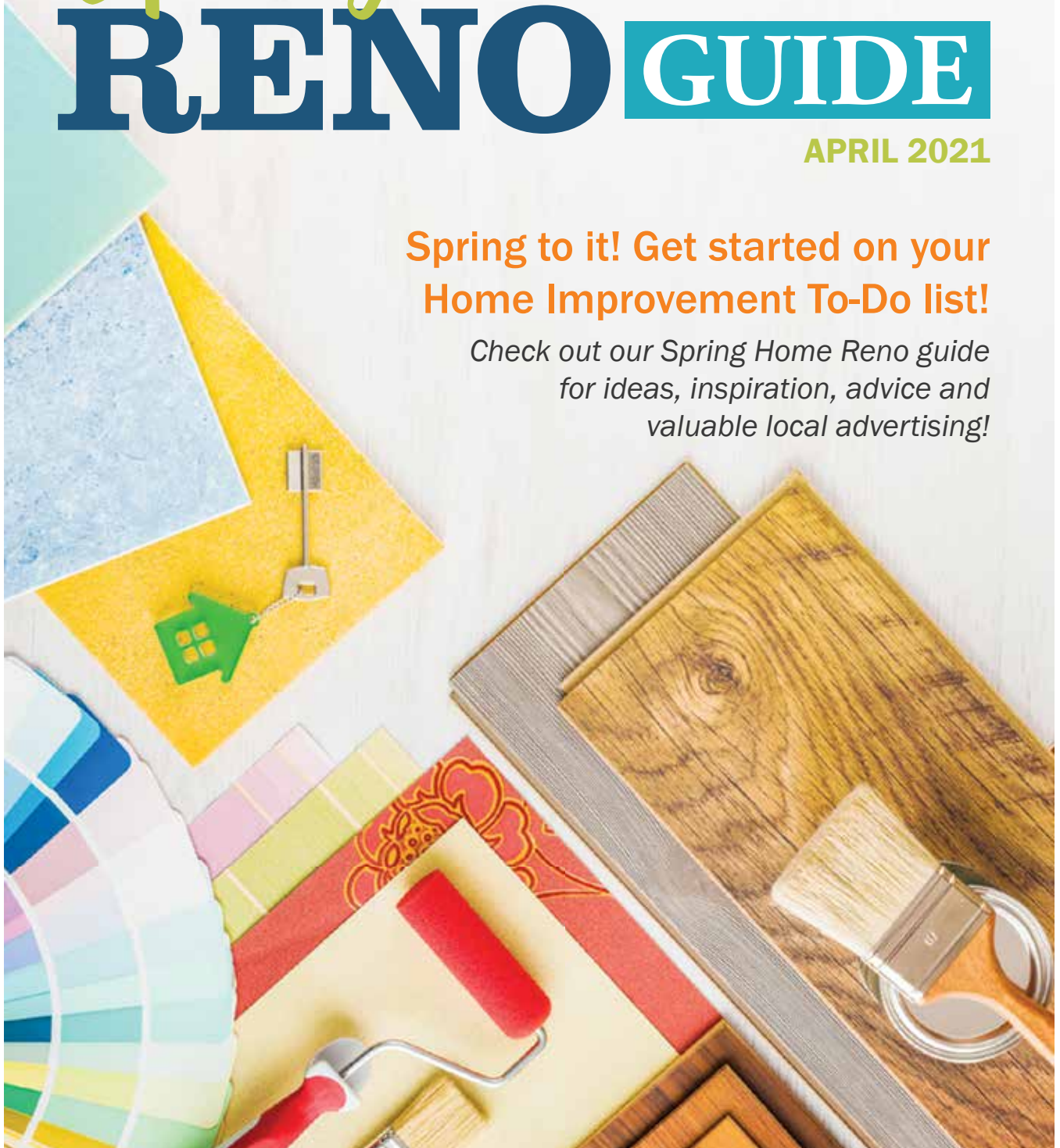
Spring HOME RENO GUIDE



APRIL 2021

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LAUNDRY ROOM RENOVATIONS YOU'LL LOVE

Does it seem like your hamper is always full and the washing machine is running constantly? You may not be imagining it. Laundry Butler for You, a wash, dry and fold service, says the average household washes 50 pounds of laundry a week and 6,000 articles of clothing every year.

Families with children at home are doing laundry most often, and those with pets may find there is ample laundry to wash as well.

With so much laundry being generated, homeowners may want to consider paying extra attention to the space in the house where their clothing

is being cleansed. Laundry room renovations may not top homeowners' priority lists, but it may be time to give these rooms another look.

Assess your equipment

If your appliances are aging, a laundry room renovation can start with an investment in new appliances. New mod-

els have large capacity loads, tend to be energy-efficient and could have innovative features that help fit with your laundry lifestyle. Purchasing front-loading models also can free up design space, as you can install a counter directly above the units, saving room for other items like drying racks.

Figure out your room needs

A laundry room need not be limited to laundry only. Many homeowners make large laundry rooms catch-all spaces that can serve as utility or mud rooms, pantry overflows, or off-season storage areas. Consider the functions you want the room to serve and include those ideas in your designs.

Add some natural light

If possible, include a window in your laundry room. Natural light can help make the room more enjoyable. It also can help you identify stains on clothes that need to be addressed and make it easier to fold matching items like socks.

Think about a utility sink

Many washing machines drain out directly to waste pipes in the floor or wall, but you also can opt to have them empty into a utility sink. This sink also provides a convenient place to handwash items, clean tools or paintbrushes, or store items that perhaps you do not want to bring into a bathroom or kitchen sink.

Include some flair

This utilitarian space need not be boring or bereft of design elements. Mirror your home's style in the laundry room, and include wall hangings, plants, accent items, and even task lighting. Play up certain features with a bold floor tile or brightly colored walls.

Updating laundry rooms can be a great way to make doing laundry more enjoyable and efficient.

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Spring HOME RENO GUIDE

TOOLS THAT CAN KEEP PEOPLE SAFE AT HOME

Homes should be sanctuaries for their inhabitants. Keeping homes safe and sound requires both maintenance and some caution designed to make homes less vulnerable to potentially costly issues.

Promptly addressing maintenance issues around the house can reduce the risk of accident or injury. In addition, various items can alert homeowners to problems they may not otherwise recognize before issues jeopardize residents' health or take a turn for the costly.

Auto shut-off features

Who hasn't left the house only to worry an hour or so later about whether the coffee pot was turned off or the straightening iron was un-

plugged? When shopping for personal care items or appliances, seek out models that have automatic shut-off features. This safety feature will power down the unit after a certain amount of time, which can reduce the risk of overheated products and house fires.

Flood and leak detector

The financial information and wellness resource Canstar says leakages, burst pipes and other water-related issues in a home are one of the more common home emergencies. Water damage can cost between hundreds and thousands of dollars depending on how invasive the water problem is. Catching a leak or flood in a home early on is essential.

Water leak detectors are designed to detect a potential flood or leak at an early stage so homeowners can take action. Sensors may sound an alarm or be connected to a WiFi system to send an alert to a mobile device.

Carbon monoxide and gas detection

It is vital that homeowners install carbon monoxide detectors in their homes. Carbon monoxide is odorless and colorless, and can cause poisoning that slowly suffocates a person. It also is combustible.

Carbon monoxide devices cannot detect a gas leak, but gas detectors can. They are a wise addition for people who have a significant

number of natural gas appliances, or those who have older, gas-powered appliances.

Sump pump alarm

A sump pump can mean the difference between a flooded basement and a dry floor. Homeowners may not recognize a sump pump malfunction during a power outage, and clogs also may not be detectable until the basement floods. Sump pump alarms incorporated into the system alert homeowners that something is amiss.

Homeowners can rely on devices and other tools to prevent their homes from being damaged and themselves and their families safe.



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Spring HOME RENO GUIDE

SHOULD I DIY?: 3 QUESTIONS TO DETERMINE IF IT'S BEST TO RENOVATE ON YOUR OWN

A do-it-yourself mentality has taken hold in millions of households across the globe. Popular television channels like HGTV and DIY Network as well as accessible home improvement content on apps like YouTube has inspired many homeowners to tackle renovation projects around their homes. Taking such initiative is admirable, though it also can prove costly if homeowners end up biting off more than they can chew.

Home improvement videos and television shows have a tendency to oversimplify renovation projects, potentially giving homeowners a false sense of confidence in their DIY abilities. A concerted effort on the part of homeowners to determine if it's best to renovate on their own or hire a professional should always be the first step of any renovation project. No two homeowners

are the same, but the following three questions can help homeowners determine if DIY is their best option.

1. Can I afford to DIY?

Professional home improvement projects are costly for a variety of reasons. Materials can be costly, but so are the tools and labor necessary to do the job right. Homeowners may not have the tools necessary to complete complicated projects. Specialty tools can be expensive to purchase or even rent, and the cost of acquiring such tools should be included in any DIY project cost estimates. Labor also factors heavily into professional projects, and for good reason. Talented contractors have unique skills that have been developed and perfected over many years. Those skills can ensure projects are completed quickly and correctly. Labor may

seem costly, but such costs may ultimately prove to be a bargain compared to the cost of fixing DIY mistakes. Projects that are minor in scope and don't require the use of potentially costly specialty tools may be better suited for weekend warriors than more complicated renovations.

2. Do I have the time?

Homeowners must determine how much time they have to complete a project before deciding to do it themselves. No one wants to spend months staring at an unfinished renovation project. Homeowners who are already pressed for time may not be able to complete projects in a timely fashion, which can make homes less comfortable and even less safe.

3. Can I pull this off?

DIY projects can instill homeowners with a sense of pride in their homes, but it's imperative

that homeowners considering the DIY option conduct an honest assessment of their skills. A lack of renovation experience does not necessarily mean a homeowner cannot successfully complete a DIY project. But in such instances, it may be best to start with small, straightforward projects and then gradually move up to bigger, more complicated projects as skills are fine tuned. And homeowners who have never been at their best with a hammer in hand should not be ashamed to leave the work to the professionals.

Television shows and online tutorials can make renovations appear easier than they actually are. Homeowners considering DIY renovations can ask themselves a handful of questions to determine if they're ready for the challenge of renovating their homes on their own.



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OPTIONS ABOUND WHEN SHOPPING FOR HOME SIDING

Home improvement projects run the gamut from minor repairs to complete overhauls. Replacing exterior siding is one of the most significant home improvement projects homeowners can undertake. Such a project can give homes a completely new look, which is why choice of siding is such an important decision. Homeowners have many siding options to choose from, and the following guide can help them make the best choice for their homes.

Vinyl siding - Vinyl siding is easily maintained and among the more budget-friendly siding options. According to the home improvement resource HomeAdvisor, vinyl siding is made from a PVC plastic that does not rot or flake. Siding professionals note that the technology used to create vinyl siding has changed con-

siderably in recent years, making this option more diverse than traditional vinyl siding. So homeowners turned off by the potentially plastic look of vinyl siding might be surprised at how different modern vinyl siding looks compared to the vinyl siding of yesteryear.

Fiber-cement siding - The home improvement television network HGTV notes that fiber-cement siding has grown in popularity among homeowners in recent years. This material does not require much maintenance and it's non-flammable and resistant to termites. HomeAdvisor notes that fiber-cement siding can create the look of wood, stucco or masonry, making it a versatile option capable of creating various looks. In addition, fiber-cement siding is known for its durability, with some products coming

with warranties lasting as long as 50 years.

Wood siding - Homeowners have many choices if they prefer wood siding on their homes. Cedar, cypress, fir, pine, and spruce are just a handful of the many wood siding options homeowners can choose from. HomeAdvisor notes that cedar shingle siding offers a natural look that blends well in wooded and waterfront landscapes. Wood clapboard siding is another popular option, though it tends to require more maintenance than cedar shingle siding. Homeowners who want wood siding should discuss their options with an experienced siding professional, as many factors, including the choice of wood, must be considered before making a final decision.

Stone and stone-veneer sid-

ing - Many homeowners fall in love with the natural appeal of stone, but the price tag, which tends to be costly, may not be as awe-inspiring. HGTV notes that stone can be difficult to add to an existing home, and doing so may drive the price up even further. Stone siding is durable, and there are many options, including solid stone and natural stone cladding, that make this an option capable of providing an array of looks. Stone-veneer siding is less expensive than natural stone and also comes in an array of styles. As is the case with wood, stone siding options are so extensive that homeowners are urged to discuss each one with a siding professional before making their decisions.

These are just a few of the many siding options homeowners can choose from.

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Spring HOME RENO GUIDE

HOW TO ADD SHADE TO A DECK OR PATIO

Homeowners eagerly await the arrival of the warm weather so they can cast off the remnants of cabin fever and bask in the sunshine. However, as summer nears its dog days, the same sun homeowners once coveted can contribute to uncomfortable conditions in outdoor entertaining spaces.

Meteorologists at WHAS11 in Kentucky took to their neighborhoods in July 2020 to test just how hot surfaces can get in the sun during peak daytime temperatures. Concrete sitting in the sun almost all day reached a temperature of 134.7 F, while the same concrete in the shade clocked in at just under 80 F. When air temperatures are around 90 F, unshaded concrete and asphalt can

be 125 F and 140 F, respectively. While wood decking may not be as hot as asphalt and concrete, it still can get steamy underfoot.

Homeowners who want to be able to enjoy their outdoor spaces in an array of temperatures can think about investing in shade solutions. Sun-blocking ideas like awnings, shade trees and large umbrellas can help people enjoy their yards all day long.

· Canopy: A patio canopy is typically a freestanding unit that can be installed over a patio or a deck. Some people prefer to bolt it down so it will not be knocked over in windy conditions. The fabric on the canopy can be removed during the off-season, helping to improve its longevity.

· Awning: Awnings may be stationary or retractable. Many are installed directly onto a home and can cast shade on specific areas of outdoor entertaining spaces.

· Shade sail: Similar to an awning but a bit less structurally rigid, shade sails are large pieces of triangular fabric installed over areas of a patio, pool or landscape, according to The Family Handyman. Shade sails are light and airy and can be customized.

· Trees: A natural way to increase shade in a yard is to plant more shade trees. If sun glare is an issue all year long, and it's not just the heat of the sun that is troublesome, think about planting evergreen trees. Deciduous cousins will drop their leaves

in fall and only be effective during the warm weather.

· Patio umbrellas: Many umbrellas start at around \$25. Umbrellas can be paired with patio tables, while stationary cantilever umbrellas sit out of the way on their own heavy-duty stands. A cantilever umbrella tends to provide more shade than patio table umbrellas.

· Curtains: Homeowners can block sunlight outdoors the way they do inside, offers MSN. Hang curtains from the sides of canopies or between posts on a deck to provide shade and cozy spaces.

Shade is in high demand when the sun is hot. Options abound for making outdoor areas more comfortable.



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GIFTS TO SPARK HOME IMPROVEMENT IDEAS

People have spent more time at home in 2020 than they likely have in years past. This has provided homeowners with plenty of time to ponder potential upgrades to their homes. After taking inventory of their lifestyles, surroundings and furnishings, people have embarked on construction projects or home interior design renovations in record numbers.

Gifts that cater to projects around the house are likely to be highly valued. Here are some ideas for home improvement-related gifts.

- Home improvement retailer gift card: Home improvement centers are one-stop shopping for do-it-yourselfers. To help offset the cost of supplies, gift-givers can give a gift card to a neighborhood hardware

store.

- Magazine subscription: There are plenty of ideas on the internet, but a subscription to a home remodeling or interior design magazine puts inspiration right in homeowners' hands. Pages can be marked or cut out and used on idea boards.

- Tools and supplies: Homeowners just starting out may benefit from the basics. Stores often sell starter tool kits that can be used in home improvement-themed baskets. Experienced DIYers may have a special tool in mind that is outside their budget right now, like a chop saw or cordless power drill. Purchasing one of these items can help projects move along more smoothly.

- Expert consultation: Who

can't use a little help with their home remodeling efforts? Give the gift of a consultation from an interior designer or professional contractor to help complete plans that may be a little out of reach for the average DIYer.

- Big-ticket item: Some friends and family members may want to pool their resources and offer loved ones an over-the-top gift. This can include a backyard playset for children, a storage shed, a pool installation, or even a new appliance package. Gift ideas are endless and only limited by budget.

- Room re-do: All it may take is some new linens or accents to transform a room. From throw pillows to curtains to wall art, give the gift of an easy room makeover.

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Spring HOME RENO GUIDE

TYPES OF HOME INSULATION AND WHERE TO INSTALL THEM

When thinking about renovating their homes, homeowners may imagine changing wall colors, expanding room sizes or upgrading appliances and fixtures. However, unless people take inventory of the less glamorous components of the home, such as structure, plumbing, heating and cooling, and insulation, other improvements may be for naught.

A home insulation project certainly doesn't offer the wow factor of a kitchen remodel, but insulation serves a vital function in the house that helps keep people comfortable and reduces energy consumption. Insulation is typically placed in areas where air escapes, such as between the stud cavities inside the walls and in the attic, and serves to slow and reduce

heat transfer.

The U.S. Department of Energy says between 50 and 70 percent of the energy used in homes is for heating and cooling. By improving home insulation, homeowners can make their homes more comfortable, consistent and efficient. In fact, the ENERGY STAR program overseen by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency says homeowners stand to save an average of 15 percent on heating and cooling costs by adding proper insulation. To do so, homeowners can take a crash course in home insulation and find the products that fit their needs.

Blanket batts and rolls

Blanket batts and rolls typically are constructed with fiberglass, so proper safety gear,

such as a mask and gloves, is needed when handling them. Installing this type of insulation is relatively easy since the materials are designed to fit the standard width between studs, rafters and floor joists.

Loose fill

Loose fill is usually made of fiberglass or cellulose (recycled paper fiber). It is blown or sprayed into place with pneumatic equipment, according to The Home Depot. Loose fill can be ideal for hard-to-reach areas in attics or inside wall cavities. It's good for adding insulation to irregularly shaped areas. Since it requires special equipment, this is a job best left to professionals.

Sprayed foam

Sprayed foam is just as the name implies, a foam made

from polyurethane, polyisocyanurate, cementitious, or other materials that are applied by a spray container. DIYers who need only small applications can use canned products. Large quantities are pressure-sprayed by professionals.

Foam board/rigid foam panels
Ideal for unfinished walls, such as basement or foundation walls, floors and ceilings, these are boards of polyurethane or polystyrene. Foam boards tend to reduce energy consumption more effectively than other types of insulation.

Homeowners considering upgrading their insulation or amending existing insulation should do their homework on the type of insulation that will be most effective for their homes.



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COVID-19 UPDATE FOR WHITECOURT

Submitted by Town of Whitecourt

As announced by the Government of Alberta, updated mandatory health measures will come into effect for retail, fitness and performance activities as of 11:59 p.m. on April 6, 2021.

- Retail services and shopping malls will be reduced to 15% of fire code occupancy, with a minimum of 5 customers permitted. Curbside pickup, delivery and online services are encouraged.

- Only one-on-one training at fitness centres with an individual or household is permitted. No drop-in activities or unsupervised individual fitness; group fitness, high or low intensity, is not allowed.

- Adult performance activities are not permitted (including dancing, singing, acting, etc.).

- All libraries must close. Effective noon on Friday, April 9, 2021 restaurants will be restricted to providing only takeout, delivery and patio service.

For detailed information on

the changes, please refer to the Government of Alberta website. www.alberta.ca/enhanced-public-health-measures.aspx#jumplinks-0

Other mandatory public health measures remain in effect, including no indoor social gatherings; outdoor social gatherings are limited to 10 people; and, mandatory mask wearing.

Changes to Town of Whitecourt Operations:

As a result of this announcement, the following changes will be made to public facility

operations:

- The Pembina Fitness Centre at the Allan & Jean Millar Centre will be closed as of April 7 until further notice. Those who have appointments booked at the facility will be contacted directly.

- The Whitecourt Public Library is closed as of April 7 until further notice.

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

- www.alberta.ca/covid19
- www.ahs.ca/covid

COUNTY NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

Submitted by Lac Ste. Anne County

COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX PROGRAM (CVITP): FREE preparation of 2020 taxes.

The County's Community Services department is offering its popular annual Community Volunteer Income Tax Program (CVITP) to eligible citizens.

The CVITP is a partnership between the Canada Revenue Agency and Community Organizations that host tax prep clinics and arrange for volunteers to prepare income tax and benefit returns for eligible citizens, review those results with the client, and with the client's approval, e-file the return.

Eligibility criteria for the CVITP Program can be found at About free tax clinics - Canada.ca or by calling the Community Services department to discuss.

To schedule an appointment, or for more information regarding this program, please contact the Community Services Coordinator, Taryn Monteith, at 780.785.3411 or email tmonteith@LSAC.ca.

2021 CAMPING SEASON

Enjoy the great outdoors! Reservations for overnight bookings for the Paddle River Dam Campground and the Lessard Lake Public Campground will open May 1, 2021 at 9:00 am. To book your spot,

please call your desired campground directly:

- Lessard Lake Public Campground - 780.284.3643

- Paddle River Dam Campground (Boat Launch) - 780.305.8423

- Paddle River Dam Campground (Peter's Pond) - 780.284.1753

Visit LSAC.ca/campgrounds for more information.

OPT INTO COUNTY CONNECT FOR AG ALERTS

Sign up for the County's new community alert system. Did you know there's an Agriculture channel on County Connect? When you set up your account at CountyConnect.ca, you can select from one of a number of channels - including Agricultural Notices. Here you'll get important County

news alerts like road closures, fire bans and other regional updates for producers.

Once you're registered on County Connect, you can configure how you prefer to receive alerts. Options include: voice call, text message, email or social media.

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STORY TO TELL?

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If you have any good ideas for articles or would like to submit a story for the paper Email it to news@com-voice.com or just fax it in at (780) 962-1021.

Please call us at (780) 962-9228 for more information.

Stories may be edited for length due to possible space restrictions.

COMMUNITYVOICE
YOUR LOCAL NEWSPAPER

LOCAL GARDENERS EXPLORE NEW IDEAS FOR THEIR LANDSCAPE

Submitted by Sangudo Horticultural Club

Area residents are invited to a presentation by Leta van Duin from the Alberta Low Impact Development Partnership on the fourth Monday in April. Like so many other community organizations, members of the Sangudo and District Horticultural Club are using Zoom to stay connected. While we'd rather be meeting in person, Club

president Heather Thompson sees this as an opportunity for a wider audience to hear the excellent presenters during the group's monthly meetings.

Van Duin says "let's talk resilient landscaping – landscaping that mitigates flood and drought, supports pollinators, and keeps our water bodies healthy, all while using fewer inputs and interventions. The topic will be tackled through a lens of retaining rainfall on-site, which happily allows gardeners to add some plants to the palette that might otherwise not be possible without irrigation. We'll touch on connections to improved water quality and related municipal drainage aspects. You will hear about New Perennialism, rain gardens, pollinator meadows, and alternatives to

conventional turf and some novel installations in Alberta. The future is green and colourful and gardeners are key to making it happen."

Leta van Duin has been the Executive Director of the ALIDP since 2009. The partnership is a non-profit association for professionals with a vision to see land development and landscapes co-exist in harmony through comprehensive stormwater management. The partnership works to equip Albertans to create vibrant, functional landscapes, through activities in policy and planning, technical knowledge, feasibility, and citizen engagement. Leta's background includes landscape design, community engagement, and communications-giving her a broad perspective. In her 'spare time' she has designed sever-

al schoolyard naturalization projects, and experiments with collecting and growing native plants.

Already this year the Club learned about no-till gardening, growing fruit, summer flowering bulbs, using perennials in containers, and what's new in the greenhouses for 2021. Assuming gatherings are permitted, plans for the summer include a plant sale and yard tours, plus the members-only and always popular trip to High-Q Greenhouse.

The ADLP presentation is at 7:00pm on April 26. Non-members are welcome to participate for a small drop-in fee. For more details and to register email SangudoHortClub@gmail.com or check out the Sangudo Horticultural Club on Facebook.



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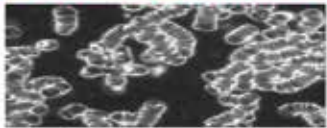

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of the week

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!

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!

ANSWER:

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

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

Church Directory

Rich Valley Community Church

Sunday School
10:00 a.m.
Worship Service
11:00 a.m.

Catholic Parish of Lac Ste. Anne

Sunday
10:00 a.m.

Mayerthorpe Baptist Church

Worship Service
Sunday 10:30 a.m.
Children's Church
10:30 a.m.
4606-54 St. Mayerthorpe
(780) 786-2677

Alberta Beach Alliance Church

Sunday Worship
Service & Kid's
Church 11:00 a.m.
Sunday School
10:00 a.m.
(780) 924-3282

St. John's Anglican Church

Onoway
Sunday Service
10:00 a.m.
Everyone Welcome

St. John's Lutheran Church

Alberta Beach
Sunday Service
11:00 a.m.
Sunday School

Zion United Church

Sunday Service
10:00 a.m.
Sunday School
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Wabaman, Darwell &
Lake Isle, Onoway & Area
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Sangudo United Church

Christmas Eve Service 6:00 p.m.
Worship Service
3rd Sunday 11:00 a.m.
4907-50 Ave. Sangudo, AB

St. Mary's Anglican Church Service

Holy Communion
2nd Sunday each
month 11:00 a.m.
at Sangudo United Church
Reverend Barry
Rose Officiating

Cherhill Community Church

Sunday School
10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
Worship Service
Sunday 11:00 a.m.

St. Michael Lutheran Church

Sunday Services 1st &
3rd Sunday at 2:00 p.m.
Pastor Rick Chappell
(780) 674-2618
Mystery Lake

Trinity Lutheran Church (LC-C)

"The Church of the Lutheran Hour" - Rockfort Bridge
Pastor Dan Hansard
Church (780) 778-2055
Sunday Worship
9:00 a.m.
Senior's Service & Cottage Bible Study - Phone for locations

Crossroads Community Church

P.A.O.C.
Rev. Arnold Lothoiz
Sunday Service
10:30 a.m.
(780) 786-2424

Onoway Baptist Church

Sunday Service
10:30 a.m.
(780) 967-2266

Roman Catholic Church

St. Agnes' Parish, Mayerthorpe
Sunday 9:00 a.m.
St. Elizabeth Parish,
Evansburg
Saturday 7:00 p.m.
(780) 786-2032

Calahoo Alliance Church

Family Worship
Service Sunday
10:00 a.m.
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