

YOUR PARKLAND

2023 WINTER

Keeping you connected with your County

**LOOKING BACK ON A
SUCCESSFUL 2023** Page 6

**PROTECTING
PARKLAND FROM
WILDFIRE AND
CRIME** Page 11 and 15

**WE'RE ON GUARD
FOR SNOW — LEARN
ABOUT SNOW
REMOVAL IN THE
COUNTY** Page 22

... AND MORE INSIDE!

**SHARE YOUR FEEDBACK
WITH US FOR A CHANCE
TO WIN A \$100 GAS CARD**

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Cover photo: Theresa Muth Photography, taken near Rge Rd 21 & Hwy 16A

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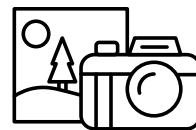
UPCOMING OFFICE CLOSURES

Parkland County offices will be closed
DECEMBER 22 at noon until **JANUARY 2, 2024**.
Offices reopen January 2, 2024, at 8:30 am

PROCLAMATIONS

Family Literacy Day: January 27, 2024

World Interfaith Harmony Week: February 1 to February 7, 2024



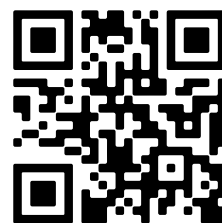
Share Your Feedback and Photos

If you're out exploring the County and snap a beautiful photo, be sure to share it with us and you might see it featured in one of our future editions! Email your photos, and your thoughts on this publication, to communications@parklandcounty.com.

You can also share your photos by tagging us on social media.

Concerns

If you notice a concern or have a question within Parkland County, you can use our County Concerns tool to send it in right from your smartphone or computer.



REACH OUT OR FOLLOW US:

Find out more on what's happening in Parkland County, follow us or visit parklandcounty.com

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday – Friday; 8:30am – 4:30pm

T: 780-968-8888

E: hello@parklandcounty.com

53109A HWY 779

Parkland County, AB T7Z 1R1



MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!

On behalf of Mayor and Council, we wish you peace and joy this holiday season. We are grateful for the past year and look forward to continuing to serve our residents and businesses in 2024.

Photo above: (L – R back): Councillor Rob Wiedeman, Councillor Natalie Birnie, Mayor Allan Gamble.
(L – R front): Councillor Phyllis Kobasiuk, Councillor Kristina Kowalski

Not pictured: Councillor Allan Hoefsloot, Councillor Sally Kucher Johnson





(L – R): Councillor Rob Wiedeman, Councillor Kristina Kowalski, Councillor Natalie Birnie, Councillor Allan Hoefsloot, Councillor Sally Kucher Johnson, Councillor Phyllis Kobasiuk, Mayor Allan Gamble

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

Parkland County Mayor and Councillors share what they're proud of from 2023.



Allan Gamble

MAYOR

I am extremely grateful for all the valuable relationships that we created and maintained this past year. Whether with our residents and neighbours, Parkland County employees, our regional partners, or our provincial colleagues, it has been wonderful to build connections for the betterment of our municipality. There is great strength, vision and resilience that comes when we join together and work towards shared goals, and I look forward to continuing this work in the new year.

We acknowledge that we are located on the lands of Treaty 6 which is the traditional home of the Cree, Dene, Saulteaux, Blackfoot, Nakota Sioux nations, members of the Metis nations of Alberta, Inuit and all First Nations sharing this land for generations. We recognize the long history and contributions of Indigenous peoples who've cared for this land from time immemorial to the present. We acknowledge that we are all treaty people bound to one another by the spirit and intent of treaty as long as the sun shines, the grass grows, and the river flows.



Sally Kucher Johnson

DIVISION 1 COUNCILLOR

Over the course of the year, we worked on a Municipal Bylaw Review with the goal of ensuring existing bylaws are updated to maintain the health, safety, and welfare of our community. Throughout this process, I have been very proud of the various engagement opportunities held throughout Parkland County. The bylaw review is a shared responsibility with the residents it serves, and it was important we ensured every resident had the chance to be heard.



Kristina Kowalski

DIVISION 2 COUNCILLOR

I am proud of the County's commitment to agriculture and the environment. This year, Parkland County received a Sustainable Communities Award for our work in determining the value of natural infrastructure in rural road networks, and we continue to drive improvements in wetland and riparian preservation. I'm also proud of the growth in our business community and the excellent relationship we have fostered with the Acheson Business Association. This collaboration, and their skilled leadership, has ensured success on various projects, such as the Developer's Breakfast at Supreme Steel, the creation of the Zone Welcome to Acheson Guide, and our crime prevention strategy work.



Phyllis Kobasiuk

DIVISION 3 COUNCILLOR

I am proud of Council's focus to ensure non-residential tax growth in Acheson maintains revenues, as off-coal initiatives resulted in a loss of revenues related to power generation. Year after year, Council has been able to hold the line on tax increases. With the cost of living and rising interest rates, families in the County have faced utility, mortgage and grocery bill increases that bring burden and stress to everyday life. I believe that Council has kept our governance and policy roles in the forefront by keeping tax increases among the lowest in our region.



Natalie Birnie

DIVISION 4 COUNCILLOR

Serving on the Agricultural Services Board and Truth and Reconciliation Committee has successfully brought forward many results and recommendations to Council. I am particularly proud of our efforts in securing increased funding and eligibility for our community organizations. In addition to this work, I am grateful that Council's effective lobbying for the safety of the Range Road 20 and Highway 16A intersection should soon prove successful.



Rob Wiedeman

DIVISION 5 COUNCILLOR

I am pleased with the work done to improve Mink Lake Road (Township Road 524) throughout the year. Construction has progressed well, with the first layer of asphalt paving completed this fall and the second layer to be completed in the summer of 2024. I am also proud of our Wabamun Waterfront Improvements project that will ensure the long-term viability and economic growth of the area, making it a first-class destination.



Allan Hoefsloot

DIVISION 6 COUNCILLOR

The opening of the Gainford Hotel was a huge accomplishment for the hamlet and for all of Parkland County. This 70-year-old building was renovated and reopened, creating new jobs and providing a refreshed meeting place for locals. Another business success took place in Tomahawk, with the opening of Woodruff Veterinary Service. I'm proud to see new local businesses opening up and serving our communities.

2023 YEAR IN REVIEW

LOCAL TRANSIT

The Tri-Region launched On-Demand Local Transit, allowing riders to travel between Stony Plain, Spruce Grove, Acheson, and Parkland Village with ease.



JAN

SUSTAINABILITY AWARD

Parkland County received a Sustainable Communities Award, celebrating the County's work in assessing the value of natural infrastructure in rural road networks.



First edition of Your Parkland newsletter sent out.



FEB

FUNDING FOR HIGHWAY 60

The Alberta Government committed to fund improvements to Highway 60 through Acheson, as well as the intersection at Highway 16A and Range Road 20.



MAR

VOLUNTEERS!

Celebrated our community league volunteers at the Volunteer of the Year event.



Range Road 70 Wildfire began.



APR

IMPROVE STOREFRONTS

Launched the Business Revitalization Program to help local businesses improve their storefronts.



MAY

FIRE STRATEGY

Advocated for Provincial wildfire strategy and effectiveness.



ALBERTA FireSmart™

JUN

BOAT LAUNCH

Sundance Boat Launch and Recreation Area opened.



Wildfire declared extinguished



JUL

THE ZONE

Launched "The Zone" — a welcome to Acheson guide in partnership with the ABA (Acheson Business Association).



AUG

OUTDOOR MOVIE

Hosted our second annual outdoor movie event in Wabamun with over 450 people in attendance.



SEP

NEW WEBSITE

Launched a new and improved website to better serve residents and visitors looking for information.



OCT

REGIONAL INITIATIVES

Mayor Gamble began his role as Chair of the EMRB, a board that provides leadership to regional initiatives building a connected, thriving, and sustainable region.



NOV

FIRESMART

Fire Services has completed community level, full-scale FireSmart Hazard Assessments for all hamlets, along with 38 individual homes in the County receiving an Advanced FireSmart Assessment.



DEC

PARKLAND COUNTY'S STRATEGIC PILLARS:



Complete Communities



Strategic Economic Diversification



Respected Environment and Agriculture



Responsible Leadership



For more information on Parkland County's Strategic Plan visit www.parklandcounty.com



CHRISTMASTIME IN THE COUNTY

Christmas Hampers

KINETTE CLUB OF SPRUCE GROVE

Christmas Hampers provided to Spruce Grove and Parkland County east of Boundary Road. Applications can be made by phone to the Parkland Food Bank at 780-962-4565 ext. 1

Application Deadline: December 9

Hamper Pickup: December 15

LAC ST. ANNE FOOD BANK — CHRISTMAS HAMPERS

Apply by calling 780-271-3131. When requested, applications will be shared with Santa's Helpers for families with children.

Application Deadline: December 15

Hamper Pickup: Dec. 20, 9:00am – 12:00pm
(Onway Baptist Church)

PARKLAND FOOD BANK

Parkland Food Bank can provide food hampers to non-Food Bank users.

All hamper applications can be made by phone at 780-962-4565 ext. 1

Closed: December 23 and reopens January 3

STONY PLAIN KINSMEN

Christmas Hampers provided to Stony Plain and Parkland County from Boundary Road west to Range Road 34. Applications can be made by phone to Parkland Food Bank at 780-962-4565 ext. 1

Application Deadline: December 9

Hamper Pickup: December 15

WABAMUN CHRISTMAS HAMPERS

Provided to Wabamun west to HWY 759, East to Range Road 34 and North to Lac St. Anne boundary.

Applications available at Wabamun ATB or Wabamun Servus Credit Union.

Contact: 780-237-6135

or wabamunchristmashamper@gmail.com

Application Deadline: December 8

Hamper Pickup: December 15,
11:00am – 2:00pm

WEE FOOD BANK

Supplying food to those in need in Evansburg, Entwistle, and Wildwood.

Call Tuesdays before 2:00pm to arrange hamper pick up at 780-727-4043.

Winter Clothing

COATS FOR KIDS & FAMILIES

Winter clothing for children, families, and adults: coats, mitts, toques, scarves, snow pants, winter boots including adult insulated work boots.

Monday – Friday
9:00am – 4:00pm

Located at the Family Connection Centre (FCC)
5600 – 50 Street, Stony Plain.

Call 780-963-0549 or visit

www.apfa.ca for more information

Need a little support this holiday season? There are a variety of supports and opportunities available to residents throughout the winter and Christmas season.

www.parklandcounty.com/Christmas



PARKLAND COUNTY OFFICE HOLIDAY HOURS

Parkland County offices will be closed December 22 at noon until January 2, 2024. Offices reopen January 2, 2024, at 8:30am.

Transfer Station holiday hours:



December 22: Regular hours
December 23: Regular hours
December 24: Closed
December 25: Closed
December 26: Closed
December 27 – 31: Regular hours
January 1: Closed

View individual transfer station locations and hours at www.parklandcounty.com/TransferStations

HAVE QUESTIONS OR NEED ADDITIONAL SUPPORT?

Reach out to our Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) at 780-727-3947.

WHAT'S NEW IN PARKLAND COUNTY



Peace Officer Travis Henrikson with Her Excellency the Right Honourable Mary Simon, Governor General of Canada.

“ These officers responded with fast-action and courage, and together they saved a life in an unimaginable situation,” said Geoff Heritage, Director of Enforcement Services at Parkland County. “I am beyond proud of these officers and grateful for the recognition they’ve received for their bravery and commitment to keeping our community safe.”

First Responders receive Decorations for Bravery

Parkland County Firefighter Jordan Burrows and Peace Officer Travis Henrikson, along with RCMP Officer Mark Friesen, have received Decorations for Bravery for their life-saving response during an intense emergency.

Rewind to April 6, 2019, where the First Responders rescued a woman from her burning vehicle following a head-on collision. Burrows was the first to arrive on scene and managed to safely remove the driver of the first vehicle with the help of bystanders.

It was then that he realized a woman was trapped inside the flaming second vehicle. He attempted to quell the flames with a fire extinguisher but was unsuccessful. With Henrikson and Friesen now on scene, the three rescuers opened the back door of the vehicle and struggled to remove the victim before cutting through her seat belt with a knife. Burrows grabbed the victim underneath the arms, Henrikson grabbed her torso and Friesen held her legs as they pulled her out through the window. Just moments later, the vehicle was completely engulfed in flames. They safely carried the woman to the highway median before emergency services arrived.

Her Excellency the Right Honourable Mary Simon, Governor General of Canada, presented 34 Decorations for Bravery during a ceremony at the Citadelle of Québec on September 19, 2023. The Decorations for Bravery are among Canada’s most respected and prestigious civilian honours.



The 2024 Budget was approved by Council on November 28, 2023. Visit www.parklandcounty.com/Budget to learn more.



(L – R) Chad Ritter (ALUS Parkland Coordinator),
Jesse Pukalo, Wayne Pukalo.



Local family wins agriculture award

ALUS (Alternative Land Use Services) is a national charitable organization that provides expertise, resources, and direct financial support to farmers and ranchers to establish and steward nature-based solutions on their land. These solutions help sustain agriculture and fight climate change and biodiversity loss for the benefit of communities and future generations.

Wayne and Jesse Pukalo, a father and son team who own and operate Century Simmentals, joined ALUS in 2018 and have since enrolled a total of 100 acres in the program, generating valuable ecosystem services. Their wetland projects allow these ecosystems to flourish, providing vital habitat for native species and in turn boosting biodiversity. The wetlands also help capture and store carbon and filter surface water.

This fall, the Pukalos were honoured with the Dave Reid Award, an award that recognizes farmers participating in ALUS who are dedicated to producing ecological services on their land for the benefit of their

“ Wayne and Jesse exemplify the hardworking solution providers that make ALUS an effective grassroots mechanism for addressing climate change and biodiversity loss.

– Bryan Gilvesy, CEO, ALUS

communities and the environment. Through the award, ALUS honours their vital role as solution providers, community leaders and ambassadors for their local ALUS program.

“It is an honour to receive this national award. We are very grateful to ALUS Parkland’s

Coordinators who have been instrumental in supporting us in implementing management practices to sustain the stewardship of our land. Our work aligns with the values and principles of ALUS. By putting those values into practice, we are confident in the long-term benefits we are creating for our ranch and for the environment,” said Wayne and Jesse Pukalo.

Wayne has also helped grow the local ALUS program as a member and Chair of the

Partnership Advisory Committee, along with helping pilot and launch the ALUS enhanced grazing program in his community. His commitment to establishing and documenting best practices creates valuable technical

resources for other participants looking to implement enhanced grazing with ALUS.

“Wayne and Jesse exemplify the hardworking solution providers that make ALUS an effective grassroots mechanism for addressing climate change and biodiversity loss. Their desire to implement practices that better the environment and their drive to share what they learn with their community is exactly what’s needed to build a better future for communities in Canada and around the world,” said Bryan Gilvesy, CEO, ALUS.

The Pukalos have also been keen to work with outside experts, including agronomists and biologists, who visit their operation to gather valuable data point that illuminate the outcomes of their grazing and environmental practices. Wayne and Jesse’s dedication to developing knowledge and resources that help advance a shared understanding of environmental practices on working farms will not only benefit their work and their land, but it will contribute to their community and the broader ALUS network.

Thank you to ALUS for their assistance in providing this information.



PHOTO: KEITH AHLSTROM

Internet in the County

The County is currently implementing phase 1 of the Broadband Investment Plan. Part of this phase includes trialing a rebate program that aims to reduce the cost of setting up high-speed satellite internet. The rebate program is a component of the greater broadband servicing initiatives of the County, intending to provide a high-speed internet option to residents who may not gain access to in-ground fiber infrastructure in a reasonable time frame.

The trial will begin in January 2024. Participants have been selected based on the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunication Commission’s (CRTC) assessment of properties that are underserved by highspeed broadband infrastructure.

Feedback will be collected from trial participants to refine and expand the program and include other areas of the County. More information will be made publicly available soon, and trial participants will be receiving a mailout with an overview of the program.





NEW AND IMPROVED!

HAVE YOU SEEN THE NEW PARKLAND COUNTY WEBSITE?

The refreshed **parklandcounty.com** is a great resource for you to find accurate information about the County. It complements the new **yourparkland.ca** engagement page that we also launched this past year, a place where residents can engage and share their thoughts on projects happening around the County.

The site last had major upgrades in 2016 and required updates to continue to run smoothly and serve residents effectively. In addition to the necessary technological upgrades, we've reorganized the site to make it easier for you to find the County information you need! We've added an extra calendar so you can discover Council meetings

and Community Events in your area and relocated the most popular pages front and centre for easy access. Subscribing for regular email updates is easy — stay in the know by subscribing to the pages that interest you and you'll get automatic updates to your email when new info is added.

Have any comments, suggestions, or ideas for how we can improve the site and serve you better? Drop us a line at website@parklandcounty.com.

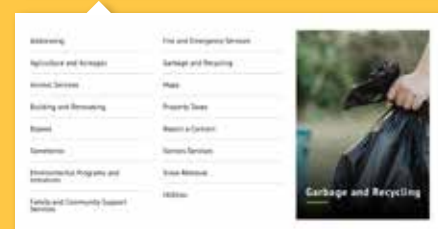
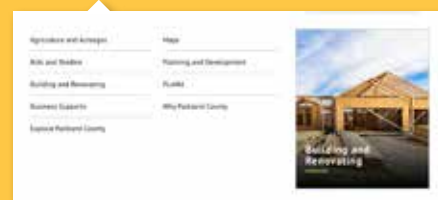
Contact Us

Parkland County

General Office 780-968-8888
Toll Free 1-888-880-0858
After Hours 780-968-8400
hello@parklandcounty.com

County Concerns

Subscribe to this page



Resolution passed to protect Rural Alberta from Wildfires

On November 8, the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) passed a resolution brought forward by Parkland County for the province to create a long-term strategy for the management of large wildland fires outside of Alberta's Forest Protection Areas.

The support of RMA membership through the endorsement of this resolution signifies that this issue impacts rural municipalities across the province. Proactive improvements need to be made to support municipalities who have teamed together for wildfire management outside of the Fire Protection Area.

RMA resolutions allow rural municipalities to identify priority issues that require action by other levels of government, and RMA then uses resolutions to guide their advocacy positions and the issues they prioritize when working with other levels of government or stakeholders. The resolution passed on November 8 with the addition of an amendment calling for additional provincial funding for the training and placement of aerial firefighting resources inside and outside of the Forest Protection Areas.

"As wildfire seasons across Alberta grow in length and intensity, these disasters are placing a substantial strain on rural municipalities' resources and budgets," explained Parkland County Mayor Allan Gamble.

"2023 was Canada's worst wildfire season in recorded history. With over 200,000 people evacuated from their homes, these disasters have become personal and painful for many Canadians. Parkland County faced an out-of-control wildfire this year that caused the evacuation of the community of Entwistle and burned for more than two months. Action is necessary now to protect our residents from the increasing threat of wildfire."

Municipalities located outside of the Forest Protection Area, including Parkland County, are assigned responsibility for the management and suppression of wildfires, a responsibility that lies with the Ministry of Forestry and Parks within the Forest Protection Area. Many communities outside the Forest Protection Area have seen an increase in wildfire activity in recent years, and during Alberta's

“ As wildfire seasons across Alberta grow in length and intensity, these disasters are placing a substantial strain on rural municipalities' resources and budgets.

– Mayor Allan Gamble

challenging 2023 wildfire season, provincial resources were stretched thin and often unavailable when they were urgently needed by rural communities.

Parkland County is calling for provincial funding for the establishment and ongoing operation of seasonal wildfire suppression crews in non-Forest Protection municipalities, the creation of a working group with key stakeholders to develop a long-term strategy on wildfire management outside of Forest Protection Areas, and increased funding and support for FireSmart programming across Alberta.

Read the resolution itself and subscribe to Parkland County news updates on the County website at www.parklandcounty.com/resolution

Images from Range Road 70 Wildfire in May 2023.



BOOMING BUSINESSES

Congratulations to Parkland County businesses Mewassin Automotive Repair and Fabco Plastics (Acheson branch) for winning awards at the Greater Parkland Regional Chamber of Commerce annual Business Awards of Distinction event!

MEWASSIN AUTOMOTIVE — Small-Medium Business of the Year award



Located in Duffield, Mewassin Automotive was highlighted for their tremendous customer service, their commitment to volunteering locally and their unique apprenticeship program where youth from the tri-region can earn valuable work experience.

FABCO PLASTICS (Acheson branch) — Large Business of the Year award



Fabco Plastics' Acheson Branch was acknowledged for their distinct customer value proposition that they have maintained, despite global supply chain constraints in their industry. Fabco prides themselves on always having the best on-the-ground inventory for their customers.



Light Up Your Life Campaign

In November, Council lit the Circle of Hope, a symbol of the annual Light Up Your Life Campaign. This campaign runs until December 31 in support of palliative, hospice and continuing care in the tri-region. Donation boxes are available at many business locations in Stony Plain, Spruce Grove, Wabamun, Seba Beach, and at the Parkland County Centre.

You can also donate at www.lightupyourlifesociety.org

REVITALIZING BUSINESS



Over the summer months, several businesses took advantage of our Business Revitalization Program and enhanced their storefronts through a fund-matching program. We appreciate all our amazing local businesses throughout the County and are grateful to have helped revitalize a few of them. Check out the before and afters from Entwistle's Riverside Diner. Thanks to a fresh coat of paint, the restaurant is looking better than ever!



BEFORE



AFTER

CONSTRUCTION UPDATES

Our 2023 construction season is wrapped up and we want to thank everyone for their ongoing patience as we completed our work activities. We were able to complete the majority of the planned work activities, and everyone got to and from work in a safe manner.

OVER THE SUMMER AND FALL, ENGINEERING SERVICES COMPLETED THE FOLLOWING WORK:



Resurfacing in eight subdivision areas
(approximately 12 km of paving)



Resurfacing of 14 km of roadways



Seal Coat Surfacing (Chip Seal) on 11 km of roadways



New asphalt on 51 Avenue in Entwistle, including new sidewalks



Replacement of four bridges/bridge culverts



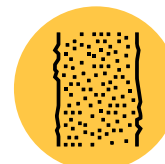
Connection of WILD Water system into Entwistle's existing reservoir



Final Stages of the Wastewater Main replacement in Entwistle along 51 Street



Final Stages of the Tomahawk Lagoon Rehabilitation



Paving on Mink Lake Road.

Looking ahead to 2024, projects will include the replacement of the water reservoir and pumphouse in Entwistle, replacement of the sewer main on 279 Street in Acheson, widening of 114 Avenue east of Highway 60, and reconstruction of two intersections at Spruce Valley Road/ Highway 16A and at Pinchbeck Road/Bevington Road/Highway 16A.



Our online public engagement portal provides residents the opportunity to learn about and share feedback on various projects. It is also home to our Enforcement page that helps keep you updated on any significant criminal activity and connects you to a Peace Officer to ask questions. Stay up to date by entering your email and clicking SUBSCRIBE on each project webpage. Join the conversation, share your perspective on County projects, and help shape what's happening in your community.



Municipal Development Plan Project

Parkland County is updating its Municipal Development Plan (MDP) — our long-term plan to guide County growth and services for the next 30 years. Thank you to everyone who participated in Stage 1 of our project engagement this fall. Be sure to check out yourparkland.ca/MDP to find out what we heard and for future engagement opportunities.

Land Use Bylaw ReDesign

Regulates development within Parkland County with a goal of ensuring that neighbouring land uses are compatible. The goal of this redesign is to streamline regulations and create clear and transparent decision-making processes for development in the County. Thank you to everyone who provided feedback this fall. Be sure to check out yourparkland.ca/lub to find out what we heard and for future engagement opportunities.

Trails Strategy

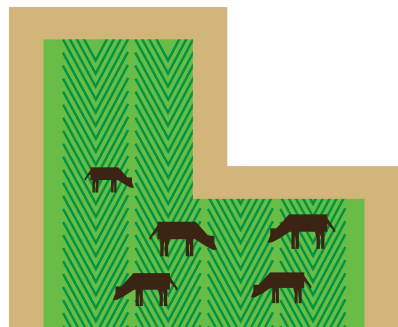
Thank you to everyone who engaged with us on this project in 2023. Stay tuned for an update on the project's next steps. Learn more at yourparkland.ca

Municipal Bylaw Review

Bylaws being reviewed are Animal Control, Community Standards, Parks, Fire, Off-Highway Vehicles, Traffic Control & Regulation, and Unauthorized Use of County Land. The bylaws are receiving readings before Council where they are open for public input.

Residents wishing to speak to Council about a specific bylaw are encouraged to do so during the public hearing for that bylaw by registering to speak. The third reading of a bylaw is the final reading and then no more changes can be made. This project is expected to be completed in March 2024.

Visit yourparkland.ca/Municipal-Bylaw-Review for more information and to view the bylaw reading schedule.



Wabamun Waterfront Improvements

As part of our commitment to supporting the economic growth and diversification of the Hamlet of Wabamun, we are investing in improvements to the waterfront area and infrastructure. This work is being done by Parkland County with grant support from Prairies Canada. These improvements include three projects:

- The renewal of Waterfront Park
- Upgrading the hamlet's stormwater systems
- Creating a new amenity space in the form of a swimming pond and inland marina

These improvements align with the 2010 Waterfront Area Structure Plan, the 2022 Wabamun Area Vision Plan, and what we heard from our ongoing engagement with residents of the Wabamun Region. County Administration is in the detailed design and permitting phase for these projects, ensuring that each project will be within the grant budget while providing high-quality amenities to the public. Once the design and permitting processes are complete, construction will begin as soon as possible.

To learn more about these projects and the Wabamun region, and to connect with the project team, visit yourparkland.ca/wabamun



PROTECTING PARKLAND

The Enforcement Services team has introduced more ways to empower residents in the fight against rural crime. By offering new digital tools with classic and proven tactics, we're hoping to see a further reduction in crime. Check out the top five ways you can help protect your home and community.

TOOL 1: Connect with us!

Visit the Enforcement page on yourparkland.ca where you can see the results of policing efforts in your area like local patrols and arrests, learn about new crime prevention programs, or connect directly with a Peace Officer. You can anonymously ask questions or take short surveys to help us better understand your concerns.

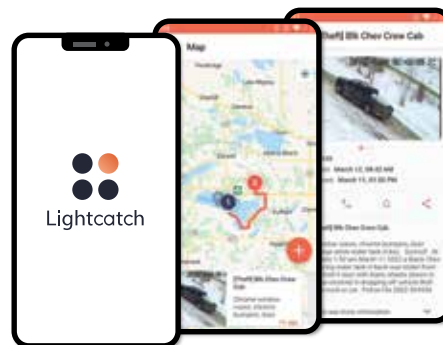
TOOL 2: See something? Say Something!

Did you know that only 30-40% of rural property crime is reported? When planning patrols, a focus is given to the highest incident areas — this means that resident reports help us to see the bigger picture of where criminal activity could be increasing in the County and helps us to react by adding extra patrols, collaborating with the RCMP, and other measures. If you've been the victim of a crime or spot something suspicious in your area, please report it to the Parkland RCMP non-emergency line at 825-220-7267. In most cases, you have the option to remain anonymous.

TOOL 3: Download the Lightcatch App

Lightcatch is an effective tool that has shown to lower crime rates in some locations in as little as 90 days. Lightcatch is a completely anonymous information source that brings the community together in a digital version of neighbourhood watch.

Similar to social media, it allows information to be shared amongst users. Unlike social media, however, Lightcatch triages and verifies all alerts and posts to ensure the content is relevant and helpful to both the public and law enforcement. This ensures that users are not inundated with notifications, gossip or assumptions that are not helpful in reducing crime.

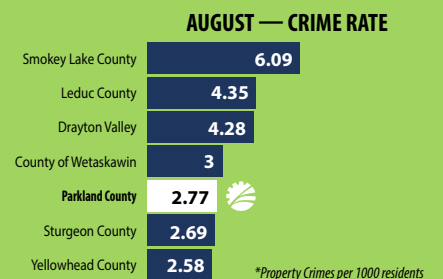
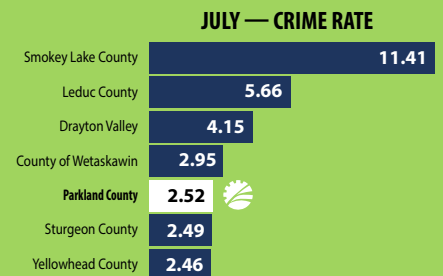


TOOL 4: Protect your property by design

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) is a unique approach that incorporates physical security measures (like gates, cameras, and motion-activated lights) along with natural elements (like the placement or removal of vegetation, improved sightlines, etc.) to reduce opportunity for criminals. One of our Peace Officers, trained in CPTED practices, will come to your property to conduct a free assessment, and provide helpful tips and tricks on small changes that will make your property less of a target. To schedule a free assessment, contact our Peace Officer team at 780-968-8400 and schedule your spot today!

DID YOU KNOW?

Parkland County had one of the lowest property crime rates in rural Alberta in Q3? As a result of diligent work by our Peace Officers, and in collaboration with the RCMP, we're seeing a reduction in crime across the County!



TOOL 5: Know your neighbours!

Looking to meet new people and keep your community safe? Invite a few neighbours on a walk around the subdivision — there's safety in numbers, you'll get some fresh air and it's a great crime deterrent!

Another easy option is to join a Community League, there's 26 in Parkland County and they often run fun programs and events for their members. Neighbours and community members watch out for each other and can be an unexpected yet effective tool in crime prevention.

To get connected with Enforcement Services on any of these tools, and for more information on Crime Prevention in Parkland County, visit yourparkland.ca



PARKLAND COUNTY LIBRARIES

FAMILY LITERACY DAY 2024

Let's have a family party!

Watch for family story times during the week of January 22 –27 at your library in celebration of Family Literacy Day held annually on January 27.

Little Free Libraries

Did you know that there are several Little Free Libraries throughout Parkland County? In them you will find a variety of different titles, making it a fun surprise to see what new books are at each location. If you see something that you like — help yourself! You can return it to any of our Little Free Library locations, or simply pass it on to a friend.

Here's where you can find a Little Free Library:

- Carvel
- Chickakoo Lake
- Clymont Hall
- Fallis General Store
- Glowing Embers RV Park
- Moon Lake Hall
- Spring Lake



LIBRARY HOURS

Keephills

Tuesday: 8:30am-4:30pm
Wednesday: 12pm-8pm
Friday: 10am-6pm

Duffield*

Monday: 9am-5pm
Wednesday: 11am-7pm
Thursday: 9am-5pm

Wabamun

Tuesday: 9am-5pm
Wednesday: 9am-5pm
Thursday: 9am-5pm

Entwistle

Monday: 9am - 5pm
Tuesday: 9am-8pm
Wednesday: 9am-8pm
Thursday: 9am-8pm
Friday: 9am-5pm
Saturday: 11am-3pm

Tomahawk

Monday: 10am-4pm
Tuesday: 10am-4pm
Wednesday: 10:30am-6:30pm
Thursday: 10am-4pm

* Hours change in July & August

CELEBRATING THE FAMILY FARM

Has your family continuously owned and actively operated the same land in the County for 100 years or more? If so, be sure to apply for the Parkland County 100 Year Farm Family Award! Keeping the family farm or ranch active from generation to generation is an impressive achievement to be celebrated. Learn more and apply at www.parklandcounty.com/AwardsOfExcellence

Deadline to apply is January 31, 2024



ENJOYING THE WINTER WONDERLAND

Winter can be cold and snowy, but luckily for us, there are plenty of activities to enjoy outside in the County.

CROSS COUNTRY SKIING

The following areas have groomed tracks for cross country skiers to enjoy:

Chickakoo Lake Recreation Area
1228 TWP RD 534

Tucker's Field
Park at Prospector's Point, 51013 RG RD 263

Hasse Lake Recreation Area
52228 RGE RD 21

Bunchberry Meadows
1B5, RGE RD 261

You can check when tracks were last groomed by viewing our updates at www.parklandcounty.com/Parks

HOST A WINTER BLOCK PARTY!

Our Love Where You Live program helps you host a block party by providing a planning guide, funding, fun bag loan and other resources for your neighbourhood event. Hosting a Love Where You Live event is a fun and easy way to get to know your neighbours. As friendships grow, so do safe and caring communities.

Events must be held at a residential address or public space and be open to all who live in your neighbourhood. Submit an application today at www.parklandcounty.com/LoveWhereYouLive





COMMUNITY LEAGUES

Creating connections, creating culture, creating vibrant communities

Community Leagues are vital in creating and sustaining vibrant communities throughout the county. Parkland County's 26 Community Leagues have a diverse group of volunteers who provide community recreation and culture opportunities through a variety of programs, events, and recreation amenities — each one unique to the immediate community they serve.

A community league is a not-for-profit organization formed to help build a culture of togetherness for a specific geographical area. They provide recreation and culture opportunities to the local community that otherwise may not have access to these amenities or activities close to home. These organizations are operated by volunteers who come together to make their community a better place. They meet regularly to plan and promote community-based activities that enhance the quality of life for those living in the area.

These independent organizations operate through a Board of Directors. Anyone in the community can become a member and support the efforts of the volunteers that help shape the culture of the community. Each Community League is financially independent and relies on creating revenue streams, accessing volunteers and donations, and applying for grants for both capital and operating funds. Parkland County provides

support through board development and training, as well as a robust grants program for our leagues.

Community Leagues can plan special events to build relationships, make the community a fun place to live, and provide community programs to help residents feel connected. No two community leagues are alike, each offers different opportunities that meet the unique nature of the community it serves. Some community leagues have buildings with programs and rental space, while others have outdoor amenities like ball diamonds, playgrounds and rinks that residents can access and enjoy. Many offer programs and events for a variety of cohorts, from early childhood to children and youth, adults, seniors, and families. If there is a special interest group that you would like to see in your community, please speak to your community league or join the volunteers and help bring the program to life.

One of the greatest strengths of a community league is its ability to draw on the expertise of its members to help it grow and evolve. Every volunteer has talents and skills or resources that are of value to their community league. Residents volunteer because they have meaningful services to perform and because they are enjoying themselves, meeting people, having fun and shaping their community.

With 26 community leagues spread out across the county, every resident in Parkland County has access to a community league. Check out which community league is near you by visiting www.parklandcounty.com/CommunityLeagues

Whatever the activity, the goal of the community league is to encourage residents to get involved and come together to build a stronger, thriving community.

Please contact your local community league if you are interested in joining, volunteering or participating in one of the wonderful events that they host!

Community Events

If you're looking to connect with your community, or want to advertise a community event, be sure to check out our Community Events Calendar at events.parklandcounty.com



SHORT-TERM PROPERTY RENTALS: A GROWING TREND

Over the last several years, Parkland County has seen an increase in short-term rentals such as Air BnB and VRBO. These rentals are in high demand for the tourists and visitors we welcome every year. It is important to note that these short-term rentals are primarily for residential use, not for hosting events or large gatherings.

NOISE CONTROL FOR COMMUNITY HARMONY:

Like any other residence in the County, please respect your neighbours. In line with our Community Standards Bylaw, we kindly request that guests keep the noise level down during their stay. This ensures a harmonious coexistence with the local community.

Please ensure your **guests** follow these rules.

PARKING PLANNING:

Inform your guests about where they may or may not be permitted to park while staying at your short-term rental. All guests are required to comply with the Parkland County Traffic Bylaw.

WASTE AND RECYCLING:

Please ensure your guests have access to dispose of garbage, recycling and composting properly during their stay.

PARKLAND COUNTY PERMIT REQUIREMENTS:

Hosts planning to develop a secondary or garden suite must obtain a Development Permit and Building Permit before starting any construction. If you are looking to accommodate a short-term residential rental within your home, such as adding a new bedroom or finishing a basement, a Building Permit is also required. Visit www.parklandcounty.com/planIt to apply online.



Red Cross Youth Programs

We are proud to offer Canadian Red Cross programs to help educate youth on important safety situations; from learning how to stay safe when home alone, to caring for younger children in the babysitting course.

Programs and courses will be available at various County community league halls throughout the year. Dates for 2024 will be added in January and can be found at www.parklandcounty.com/RedCrossPrograms

Collision Reporting Centre



The way motor vehicle collisions are reported in the Parkland RCMP detachment jurisdiction (Spruce Grove, Stony Plain, and Parkland County) is changing. Collision reporting services have transitioned to a private company, Spruce Grove Accident Support Services Ltd, who operate the Spruce Grove Collision Reporting Centre, inside the Spruce Grove Protective Services Building (36 Fifth Avenue, Spruce Grove).

This transition is expected to reduce wait times at the RCMP detachment front desk, speed up collision report processing times, reduce strain on RCMP resources, and free up RCMP resources to be redeployed for higher priority needs.

As of November 17, 2023, collision reports will no longer be taken at the Parkland RCMP detachment; they must be reported at the Spruce Grove Collision Reporting Centre. The hours of operation are 8:30am – 4:30pm, Monday to Friday and closed on weekends and statutory holidays.

For more information about reporting a collision, visit www.accsupport.com/sprucegrove

EXPLORING OUR ANIMAL SHELTER

Students from the grade 3/4 class of the MyPath program, run out of the Connections for Learning school, had the opportunity to explore the Parkland County Animal Shelter, the role of a Peace Officer, and the importance of both in the community.

The students had an in-class discussion on how the shelter helps keep lost pets safe and comfortable until they can be reunited with their owners. The shelter also cares for abandoned animals until they can be transferred to a rescue agency, so if they see an animal on its own in the community, they should call the animal shelter for help.

Wanting to help make the animals' stay at the shelter more comfortable, the students crafted pet beds to donate along with extra food and supplies that they delivered during their tour of the facility.

"Our shelter staff are a dedicated team who work alongside our Peace Officers to care for all the animals here. They also do great work educating the next generation on the importance of responsible pet ownership. It's fantastic to see the positive impact of this outreach," said Mayor Allan Gamble.

“ The animal shelter is important because if dogs do get lost, they could help find their owners, so they don't stay lost.”

– April, age 10

The students learned how Peace Officers handle stray animals in the community, what

tools are used to contain them, and the difference between an RCMP and Peace Officer.

"This is a great opportunity to reach students in the community and make those connections through programs like MyPath. I love having groups like this in, they're just full of

questions!" Said Parkland County School Resource Officer, Jesse Lutz.





STUDENTS EVEN RECEIVED SOME “HANDS-ON” TRAINING!

MyPath is a community partnership program offered by Parkland County School Division that offers students a blend of health and wellness activities, including a focus on citizenship and volunteerism, to complement core academics. A part-time program is available for students registered in Duffield, Entwistle, Tomahawk, or Wabamun schools. For more info, visit mypath.schoolsites.ca

ANIMAL SHELTER HOURS

Animal Intake and Release —
By appointment
Weekdays from 8:00am – 4:30pm

Walk-in hours
Weekdays from 1:00pm – 4:00pm

“ If you lost your dog or cat, you can find it again at the Animal Shelter and then they would have a better life with you.”

— Willow, Age 10

Phone: 780-968-8888
After Hours: 780-968-8400
2700 – 48 St., Stony Plain.

The shelter is in the Enforcement Services office located at the north entrance of the building.

Parkland County Animal Shelter

Parkland County's Animal Shelter provides housing for stray animals from surrounding areas including Stony Plain and Spruce Grove. The facility can hold up to 21 dogs and 12 cats at any given time. Members of the public can visit the furry residents during the hours of operation.



SNOW REMOVAL IN PARKLAND COUNTY



County Road Clearing

We aim to have the main road system plowed within three days after a snow fall stops. The type, depth, duration and intensity of the snowfall may impact the overall timelines as the County addresses roads in priority sequence. Drivers should always allow extra time as conditions may vary.

SNOW REMOVAL PRIORITY:

1. Arterial Roadways (highly used roads)
2. Collector roads (roadways connecting arterial and subdivision roads)
3. Local and Subdivision roads (including Hamlets)
4. Parking lots (Parkland County facilities and Community Halls)

To view snow removal updates during major snowfalls please visit www.parklandcounty.com/SnowRemoval

PROVINCIAL HIGHWAYS

The province is responsible for clearing all provincial highways. Parkland County takes care of range roads, township roads and subdivision roads. Please contact Alberta Transportation with concerns on Provincial highways at 780-963-5711 or view 511.alberta.ca for updated highway conditions.



Snow Removal Subsidy Program

We know that shovelling can be a lot of work, and we recognize that not every resident has the ability to do so. Our Snow Removal Subsidy Program provides funding support to residents with disabilities for snow removal. Up to \$500 (dependent on length of driveway) per winter season is available per household.

Criteria:

- Person applying must be the owner or renter of the residence where the driveway is being plowed, and it must be their primary residence.
- Residence must be located within Parkland County.
- Person must be physically challenged either by age or disability and must provide a doctor's certificate or note verifying that they are physically unable to remove snow from their driveway.
- All persons 18 years of age or older living in the residence must be physically disabled.

Residents can apply by completing the Snow Removal Subsidy Program application, and submit along with the required doctor's note to:

Parkland County
Snow Removal Subsidy Program
c/o Parks, Recreation & Culture
53109A HWY 779, Parkland County, AB T7Z 1R1

Applications are reviewed and residents will be contacted. If approved, the resident will be responsible for arranging to have their driveway cleared. Residents then submit proof of work completed, via paid invoice, to the County for reimbursement. Proof of payment must be submitted before April 30, 2024. Visit www.parklandcounty.com/SnowRemovalProgram to find the application.



DID YOU KNOW?

Parkland County is responsible for 1,250 km of graveled roads and 800 km of asphalt surface roads.



READERSHIP SURVEY

Complete our Readership Survey and be entered to win one of three \$100 gas gift cards! This survey will help us understand how our newsletter is serving our residents and what we can do to further improve it to meet your needs.

To enter:
Fill out the survey online at
www.parklandcounty.com/Survey

OR
Complete the form below, cut it out and mail it in or drop it at Parkland
County Centre (53109A Hwy 779, Parkland County, AB, T7Z 1R1)

Last name

First name

Phone number

Email

Address

What is your age?

☐ 18 – 34 ☐ 35 – 54 ☐ 55+

How many of the last four issues of this publication have you read or looked through?

☐ Four ☐ Three
☐ Two ☐ This Issue Only

Including yourself, how many people in your household typically read or look through this publication?

☐ One (self only) ☐ Three
☐ Two ☐ Four or more

How relevant is the content in our newsletters to you?

☐ Very relevant
☐ Somewhat relevant
☐ Not very relevant

Do you prefer to receive your Parkland County news online or in print?

☐ Online
☐ Print
☐ No preference/both

Which of the following social media platforms do you regularly use? (Check all that apply)

☐ Facebook ☐ Instagram
☐ LinkedIn ☐ X (Twitter)
☐ YouTube ☐ TikTok
☐ None of the above

Which of the following do you regularly receive news from? (Check all that apply)

☐ Stony Plain Reporter/Spruce Grove Examiner
☐ Edmonton Journal/Sun
☐ Drayton Valley Western Review
☐ Community Voice
☐ Pembina Post
☐ CBC Edmonton
☐ CTV Edmonton
☐ Global Edmonton
☐ 88.1 The One
☐ Other radio stations
☐ Social media
☐ Podcasts
☐ None of the above
☐ Other (please indicate)

What type of content would you like to see included in our newsletters?

Winners will be randomly selected and contacted. Only open to Parkland County Residents (Stony Plain and Spruce Grove Residents are not eligible to win). One entry per household.

Survey closes January 31, 2024

Upcoming Council Meetings

Stay up to date with Council meeting agendas, recaps and more by subscribing to receive email updates at www.parklandcounty.com/Council

COUNCIL MEETINGS

GOVERNANCE AND PRIORITIES COMMITTEE MEETINGS

JANUARY							FEBRUARY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5	6				1	2	3
7	8	9	10	11	12	13		4	5	6	7	8	9
14	15	16	17	18	19	20		11	12	13	14	15	16
21	22	23	24	25	26	27		18	19	20	21	22	23
28	29	30	31					25	26	27	28	29	

2023 WINTER 23

A person with long blonde hair, wearing a dark blue parka, black pants, and snow boots, is walking away from the camera on a snow-covered path. To the left is a low, light-colored stone wall. To the right are some brown, snow-dusted bushes. In the background, there are evergreen trees and a modern building with a red roof and white pillars.

U of A BOTANIC GARDENS

Visit one of the County's beautiful natural areas

Although their regular hours are closed for the season, the University of Alberta Botanic Garden hosts winter activities such as snow shoeing, kick sledding and cross-country skiing on weekends. Enjoy one of their family friendly activities (and even bring your four legged friends) before warming up around the fire with hot chocolate and locally produced hot apple cider. Visit their website www.ualberta.ca/botanic-garden to learn more!