

SAPRAE CREEK NEWS



June 2021

Councillor Sheila Lalonde's Update



As I write this column today, the long weekend has just ended, and the weather is starting to look nice and summery. I hope that everyone had a great Victoria Day weekend and that your plans went well. As for me, my grandkids were my helpers while we planted my garden. I will have an interesting vegetable garden this year as some of the combinations that were planted together may be fighting for the same space and nutrients. I know that in one of my flowerpots I have corn and pumpkin planted together, and I don't think the pot is large enough for one plant, let alone two! In another pot, they planted flowers and peas together. If the peas climb up and the flowers stay small, it could look very pretty. They did have fun getting dirty, and I enjoyed the help.

I was looking back at my notes for this past month and it really was a slow month for meetings and extracurricular events. I have reminders for upcoming items like the Big Bin event which runs from May 29th – June 26th. The bin will be in Sapræe Creek at Vista Ridge from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. on June 19th.

The municipal and federal censuses need to be completed. There are two this time and it is important to complete both. The results help to determine the funding and grants that are provided to the region.

On a Covid-19 note, it looks like the Province will be re-opening in stages again with the inoculation numbers being the driving force along with the reduction in the number of hospitalization. Stage 1, which starts on June 1st, will see an increase in the numbers for outdoor social gatherings and the opening of outdoor dining for our local restaurants. More information can be found on the Government of Alberta website at the following link:

www.Alberta.ca/COVID19

The Wood Buffalo 2023 Arctic Winter Games Host Society is looking for a few board members. More information can be found on the RMWB's website at the following link:

<https://www.rmwb.ca/en/mayor-council-and-administration/boards-and-committees.aspx>

At the May 11, 2021 Council meeting, the Tax Rate Bylaw was passed. The rural residential mill rate has increased by 4%. For Sapræe Creek and Draper residents, this will mean an increase in our tax bill. Our property assessments increased due to sales of property in our areas. The provincial education tax has increased by 18% and the Senior housing tax decreased slightly. I know that I'm not going to be too happy when the bill comes, but as a municipality, we still have to get our tax ratio down to that 5:1. Right now, we're about 7:1 from 18:1 in 2016.

Another thing that I think we as residents need to keep an eye on is the Keyera South Cheecham Sulphur Handling Facility. This facility will process elemental sulphur from the sites and make fertilizer pellets for market. This facility will be increasing truck traffic on Highways 63 and 881 and will also be shipping by rail from Cheecham. I don't know if there would be an increase in activity at the rail yard, but it is something we should be aware of.

I have a few upcoming committee meetings in the beginning of June. There is a tentatively scheduled meeting for the Emergency Advisory Committee, and I have an AUMA Energy and Infrastructure meeting on the June 11th.

Other than that, I don't have much to say this month.
Stay safe and take care of each other,
Sheila



The Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo continues to monitor the on-going COVID-19 pandemic and follow the direction of Alberta Health Services (AHS) and the Chief Medical Officer of Health.

For regular updates, please visit [Alberta.ca/COVID19](https://alberta.ca/COVID19).

For municipal information related to COVID-19, visit rmwb.ca/COVID19.



Municipal Face Covering Bylaw remains in effect Province-wide face covering requirement also in effect

As cases of COVID-19 in the region continue to be above 50, the Municipal Face Covering Bylaw remains in effect. Face coverings are required in public transit, all indoor public places, all places of worship, all indoor workplaces, in K-12 schools when required and when you might come within 2 metres of people from outside your household.

When you are finished using your disposable mask, please remember to place the mask in the garbage. Masks do not belong in the recycling bin or on the ground.

The Government of Alberta's province-wide face covering requirement also continues to be in effect. When the Municipal Face Covering Bylaw is also in effect, the provincial requirement supersedes the Municipal Bylaw on most matters. For more information on the provincial requirement, visit alberta.ca/masks.

To learn more about the Municipal Face Covering Bylaw and check the status, visit rmwb.ca/facecovering or call Pulse at 780-743-7000 or toll-free at 1-800-973-9663

State of Local Emergency in effect



On April 26, a State of Local Emergency (SOLE) was declared to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the region, protect the local health care system and keep our communities safe. We're all in this together, and we need your help.

When it comes to COVID-19 public health guidelines, don't pick and choose. Wash your hands often, wear a face covering, practice physical distancing, avoid all indoor gatherings, follow outdoor gathering restrictions and stay home when you are sick.

Get vaccinated when you are eligible

Alberta's Vaccine Program is well underway and anyone who is eligible is strongly encouraged to get vaccinated. All approved [COVID-19 vaccines are safe](#), effective, help prevent serious illness and save lives.

Recently, Alberta Health Services **reduced the age eligibility for vaccines to 30 or older for the Wood Buffalo region**. You can book an appointment for your free shot at a pharmacy or the health clinic at MacDonald Island Park. Walk-in appointments are also available at MacDonald Island.

To learn more about the vaccine program or to book your appointment, visit alberta.ca/vaccine.

What is a State of Local Emergency?

Under the Emergency Management Act, municipalities can declare a SOLE during events that require a prompt coordination of action to protect the safety, health and welfare of people. The SOLE provides the municipality with access to additional resources and options to take immediate action to address the current COVID-19 situation in the region.

At the time of publication of this newsletter, no additional public health measures have been established, outside of measures already [put in place](#) by the Government of Alberta.

COVID-19 remains a fluid situation and information can change quickly and often. AHS remains the trusted authority and primary information source for updates on COVID-19. Factual, up-to-date information will continue to be available at rmwb.ca/covid19 and alberta.ca/covid19.

Engineering/Construction Updates:

Rural Water and Sewer Servicing (RWSS)

- The force main from Sapræ Creek to YMM Airport is complete.
- The lift station project is substantially complete and seasonal deficiencies are to be completed by Q2 2021.
- The asphalt laying on Weiss Drive and Spruce Valley Drive was completed.
- The water and sanitary mains and services are complete, with deficiencies to be addressed. Work is planned to resume by May 2021 (weather dependent) and construction is planned for completion this year, including addressing deficiencies, the final lift of asphalt, remaining ditch work and landscaping by September 2021. The intent is to achieve substantial completion and handover the water system and sanitary system to Underground Services for operations by September 2021.

Sapræ Creek Trail Rehabilitation

- Road rehabilitation completed and deficiency work will be completed in 2021.

A Frame Road Paving, Lift Station and Sanitary Force Main Installation

- Design completed and tender posted including all components of the project (i.e. road, lift station, and force main).
- Overall project construction will commence in Q2 2021 and end in Q3 of 2023.

Roads

- Installation of three street lights at the intersection of Sapræ Creek Trail and Spruce Valley Drive.
- Street sweeping and line painting within the community is generally completed in early June; however, this work will be dependent on rehabilitation work completed by Engineering (as noted above).
- Sapræ Creek Trail line painting is scheduled for early June and mid-September.

Drainage

- Installation of a drainage system by way of swales and culverts to improve drainage through the park and playground area. This work was awarded to Wilco and will begin in Spring 2021.

Annual Park Maintenance

- Regular, annual maintenance will continue and includes, but is not limited to the following:
 - Improvements to the information board at the mailboxes
 - Mowing of park and greenspace areas
 - Horticultural planting
 - Forestry operations and hazard tree removal
 - Playground maintenance and inspections
 - Sports field maintenance (infield was replaced in 2019)
 - Litter picking and beautification

Bringing Nature Back from 2016 Ashes

Giving a hand to Mother Nature with Soil Bioengineering

When the Horse River wildfire swept through Fort McMurray in May 3, 2016, it devastated the equivalent of more than 840,000 soccer fields. Affected natural areas lost native forests and terrain features resulting in problematic erosion and drainage issues, loss in water quality and wildlife habitats, and enhanced risk to private and public properties.

In an effort to restore the forest ecology, the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo initiated the 2016 Wildfire Erosion and Drainage Control project. In collaboration with a team of multi-discipline engineers and environmental scientists from Associated Engineering, 300 wildfire-related sites were assessed to identify and prioritize fire-damaged areas for remediation.

Recognizing that extremely vulnerable areas would be further damaged with the use of conventional solutions, the Associated team recommended a balanced combination of nature-based solutions using soil bioengineering along with conventional engineering.

Kristen Andersen, a Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control from Associated, has more than 23 years of experience restoring degraded sites and explained this innovative technology: "Soil bioengineering is the use of natural elements such woody vegetation naturally occurring on river valley slopes to provide soil stability with their deep roots, prevent soil erosion, increase water quality, recover wildlife habitats, and add more resiliency against the negative effects of climate change. Bioengineering is also a technique to establish plants in highly disturbed areas shortening the time for them to establish properly. It is a way to give a hand to Mother Nature to heal wounds and have all the benefits of fully working natural areas."

The RMWB with Associated Engineering have managed the treatment of 70,000 m² around the Municipality with bioengineering techniques. The sites are now planted with balsam poplar and willows, which are both approved FireSmart trees for having enhanced resilience to fires. After one growing season, the area is already seeing the benefits of restoration works. The restored sites no longer experience erosion from overland flow. The forest is regenerating, plantings have taken root, filling the firebreaks and covering bare land with new green foliage. As the plants continue to establish, they will create conditions that promote several other species to grow, further stabilizing the soil and increasing ecological functions.



Pictures from AE



In Saprae Creek two bioengineering sites have been identified next to Spruce Valley Drive. Installation on one site has been completed with the second site expected to be completed this summer.



It's your time to pitch in! Adopt-a-Trail/Roadway in your community.

Make a difference and help keep Wood Buffalo beautiful! The RMWB's Adopt-a-Trail/Roadway program is seeking interested groups to commit to helping keep our region litter-free.

[Click here to complete the Adopt-a-Trail/Roadway Form](#)

What spaces are available to adopt?

Adopted trails or green spaces along roadways are between a half kilometre and three kilometres in length and located on municipal property.

What is required?

The program requires a minimum commitment of four litter cleanup sessions between May 4 and October 28. Groups that complete the program and commit to a multi-year adoption of a trail or roadway will receive a recognition sign in the vicinity of their adopted area.

Groups must adhere to all public health guidelines during their participation. Please note that public health measures can change quickly and could impact the Adopt-a-Trail/Roadway Program at any time. Participants are asked to stay with members of their household and follow all Alberta Health Services COVID-19 guidelines. For information on COVID-19, visit alberta.ca/COVID.

What if I want to do just one cleanup?

If you're interested in committing to a single cleanup for your group, we recommend [registering for a Community Cleanup](#).

Questions?

If you have inquiries on the program, we encourage you to call Pulse (780-743-7000) or toll-free (1-800-973-9663) to get connected with a Municipal Program Coordinator.

Artists and event organizers are invited to register for Alberta Culture Days



rmwb.ca/culturedays



The Wood Buffalo Alberta Culture Days planning committee is seeking individuals and organizations to help organize and host fun, family-friendly events that feature the Region's diverse culture.

Deadline: Submissions are due by **12 p.m. on June 30, 2021.**

What is Alberta Culture Days?

Alberta Culture Days is an opportunity to discover, experience and celebrate arts and culture through local events and activities, in person and online across the province.

Alberta Culture Days in Wood Buffalo include a series of **free** events for the **entire month of September** with opportunities to participate in Alberta's largest celebration of arts, heritage, diversity and community spirit.

Who can register?

Anyone can participate in Alberta Culture Days in Wood Buffalo. This includes individual artists, groups/organizations wanting to host an event and venue operators who want to offer their space.

Event organizers hail from the full spectrum of cultural creators ranging from grassroots community volunteers and independent artists to major arts, culture and heritage institutions.

To learn more, and to register for Alberta Culture Days, visit rmwb.ca/culturedays. For inquiries, please contact Pulse at 780-743-7000 or toll free at 1-800-973-9336.

Rural Non-Residential
Small Business Tax Sub-Class.

APPLY TODAY!



Did you know there is a tax sub-class for rural small businesses that could save you money?

For more information visit rmwb.ca/taxes . Then click the **Rural Small Business Tax Class** box to learn more and apply.

The next municipal election will be held on **October 18, 2021**. Interested candidates will find important information on rules and eligibility requirements, links to official forms, and more on our website at rmwb.ca/elections

Want to be a candidate in the
2021 Municipal Election?

RMWB2021
Elections

Annual Policing Priorities 2021-2022 Virtual Town Hall



The Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo (RMWB) is partnering with Wood Buffalo RCMP to host a region-wide virtual town hall on Thursday, May 13, at 6:30 p.m. to discuss policing priorities in the region. The RCMP will launch this year's priorities by addressing findings from the 2020-2021 Wood Buffalo Policing Priorities Survey completed by residents of the region, how this informed policing priorities and what the priorities mean to Wood Buffalo residents. To learn how you can join this event, please visit rmwb.ca/rcmp or call Pulse toll-free at 1 (800) 973-9663.

BIG BIN EVENT

SPRING 2021
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Do you have household items that need to be disposed of? Join us at a Big Bin Event.

This **FREE EVENT** allows residents to dispose of large household items that cannot be set out for regular waste collection.

At each event, staff will be on-site to support collection. COVID-19 prevention measures will be in place.



WHAT WE ACCEPT:

- Furniture
- Appliances and renovation materials (wood countertops, tiles etc.)
- Electronic waste (computers and televisions etc.)



WHAT WE DO NOT ACCEPT:

Commercial, construction, industrial, animal or household hazardous waste.

PLEASE NOTE: Refrigerators/freezers/air conditioners/ water coolers will be subject to a \$46 fee for CFC removal. Mattresses and box springs are also subject to a \$27.50 fee (per piece) for disposal.

Residents will require photo ID and proof of address before depositing these items. Additional fees will not be collected at the events but will be added to your monthly utility bill.

Find a Big Bin Event happening near you:

Downtown

(Macdonald Avenue)
Saturday, May 29

Timberlea

(Synchrude Athletic Park)
Sunday, June 6

Thickwood

(Centerfire Place)
Saturday, June 12

Saprae Creek Estates

(Vista Ridge)
Saturday, June 19

Anzac

(Anzac Recreation Centre)
Saturday, June 26

Gregoire Lake Estates

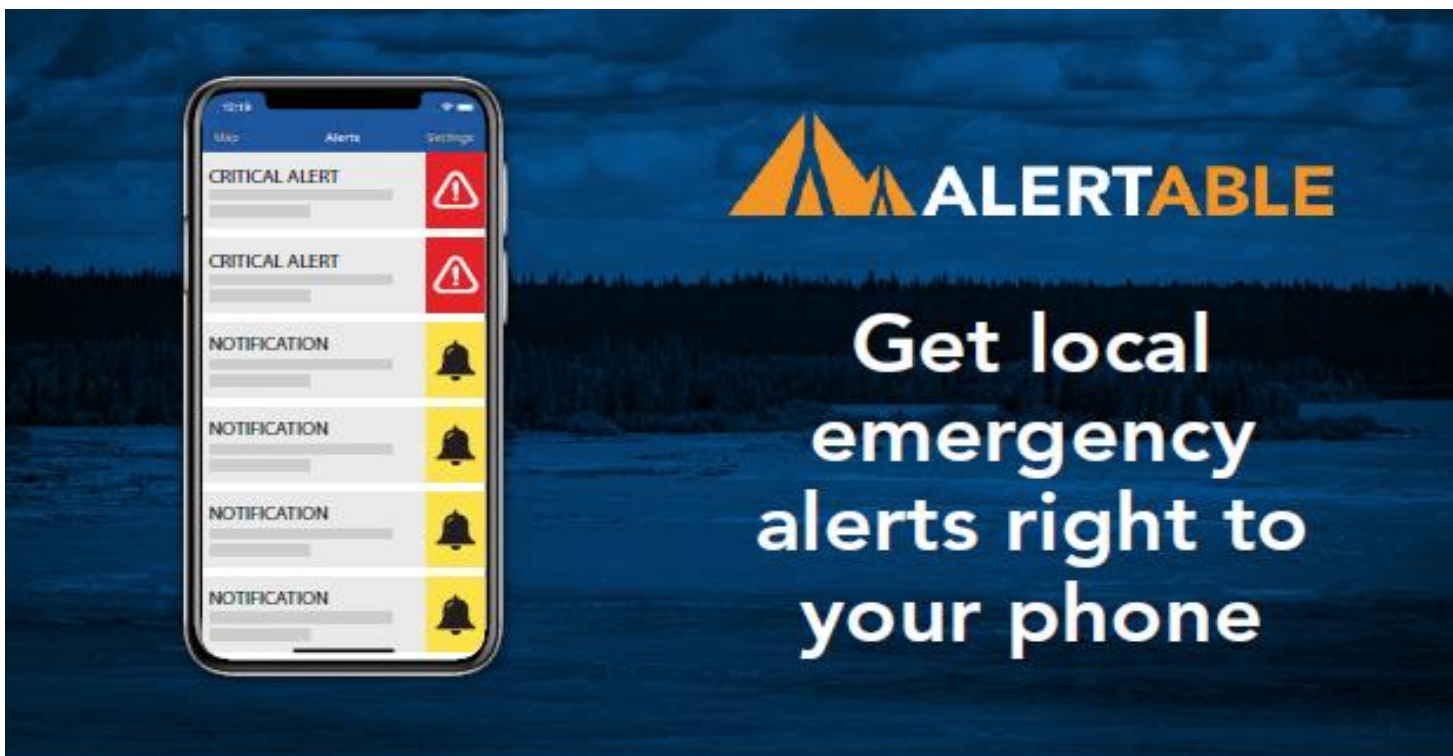
(Sewage Lift Station Parking Lot)
Saturday, June 26

For more information, visit rmwb.ca/BigBin or call Pulse at 780-743-7000 or toll free at 1-800-973-9663.

rmwb.ca/bigbin

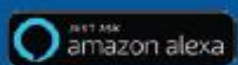


REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY
OF WOOD BUFFALO



Get local emergency alerts right to your phone

Download Now!



How it works

Alertable is a third party platform that allows the Municipality to send local emergency alerts right to your phone through the Alertable app.

How to download

Download the free Alertable app for iOS and Android smartphones, Amazon Alexa and Google Assistant home devices. Then, select your location in the region. Now, you're ready to start receiving emergency notifications.

Why use Alertable

Alertable is free to download and simple to use. Notifications are fast, reliable, private and easy to hear, see and read. Alertable connects you to the local emergency information you need to know, when you need to know it.

Find more information about Alertable, and other emergency alert systems available to you, at rmwb.ca/emergencyalerts.



JUNE IS RECREATION AND PARKS MONTH



Get outdoors and get active! June is Recreation and Parks Month throughout the RMWB!

It's the perfect time to get outdoors and get active in the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo as we celebrate Recreation and Parks Month throughout June!

Go for an adventure throughout the 814 hectares of parkland throughout the RMWB, hone your skills at your favourite sport at one of our many outdoor sports courts, or cool off at one of our numerous spray parks throughout the region as the weather warms. Our parks systems are an essential part of the personal health and well-being of our residents, allowing us to connect with nature and experience all there is to enjoy in our local ecosystem.

Head to rmwb.ca/recreation to download an Activity Bingo Card for you to complete by yourself or with your co-hort and have fun while getting active throughout our region! Please remember to follow local public health requirements and provincial guidelines while enjoying our parks spaces.

Get active with ParticipACTION's Community Better Challenge and win great prizes!

As you get outdoors and get active throughout the month, you can win great prizes for yourself and help the RMWB win \$100,000 in support of local physical activity initiatives through ParticipACTION's Community Better Challenge.

You can begin adding to our region's totals with four easy steps:

1. Download the free ParticipACTION application on your mobile device.
2. Complete the registration form and be sure to register your local postal code.
 - i. Create a team to have a challenge among your friends
3. Make a plan to sync your fitness tracker or manually track your physical activity.
4. Get moving!

Every 500 minutes of physical activity counted throughout the month earns you entries for wonderful prizes offered by ParticipACTION as well as helping the RMWB in their goal to become Canada's Most Active Community! For prize details and more information on the campaign, [visit the ParticipACTION website](#)

You've got mail!

Your 2021 property tax notice has been sent. Please make sure to carefully review this notice, as it contains important information and deadlines.

- If you haven't received your property tax notice **by June 15**, call Pulse at 780-743-7000.
- Don't forget, your property taxes are due June 30



Ways to pay your bill:

1. **Through your bank**
2. **Mortgage company payments**
3. **Mailing a cheque**
4. **Online at pay.rwmb.ca**

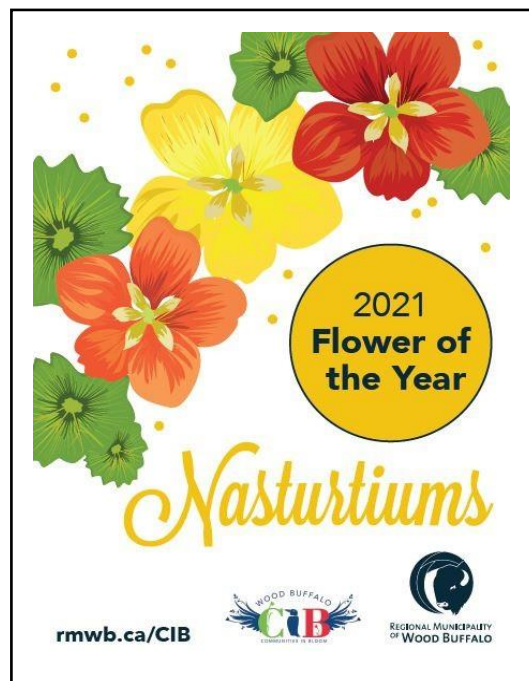
For more information visit rmwb.ca/taxes

Wood Buffalo Communities in Bloom

FLOWER OF THE YEAR

FREE SEED PACKAGES

Contact your Municipal office





The Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo (RMWB), in collaboration with local Indigenous community partners, invites all residents of our region to respectfully recognize Indigenous Peoples’ contributions, culture, and place throughout the month of June. Watch our social media channels for weekly teachings in honour of National Indigenous History Month and join the conversation for your chance to win a weekly contest! With contributions from local Indigenous artisans and companies, a hand-made birchbark basket full of goodies will be given away each week. Let’s continue learning that Indigenous history is a shared history! Get involved today by visiting rmwb.ca/NIHM.



Construction is underway for the Franklin and Main Park. It is expected to be completed by fall 2021. Visit rmwb.ca/franklinandmainpark for more information.

SIGN UP FOR THE **Vulnerable Persons Registry**



If you are a vulnerable person living in the region, you may be at greater risk during an emergency. Stay prepared by joining the Vulnerable Persons Registry (VPR).

What is the VPR?

The VPR is a free, voluntary and confidential service that improves the safety of vulnerable residents living at home. This is done by communicating directly with registrants during emergencies and by sharing key information to local first responders.

Who is eligible?

The VPR is available to residents in the region who experience any of the following:

- Mobility issues
- Visual or hearing impairments
- Developmental or cognitive impairments
- Challenges related to mental health
- Individuals who require electricity for life-sustaining equipment (life support, oxygen or dialysis)

Individuals registering for the Vulnerable Persons Registry must have a permanent address and at least one (1) valid contact number on their application. Individuals who are unable to meet these criteria will not be eligible for the registry.

To register, visit rmwb.ca/VPR or call Pulse.

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS, ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

THE WOOD BUFFALO ENVIRONMENTAL ASSOCIATION'S

COMMUNITY ODOUR MONITORING PROGRAM

SMELL SOMETHING?

TELL US

WHEN YOU SMELL AN ODOUR, SUBMIT AN OBSERVATION IN THE APP

THE COMP APP

COMP.WBEA.ORG

To better understand the odours in our region, the Wood Buffalo Environmental Association (WBEA) is asking community members to check out our COMP app and share information about the odours you are experiencing.

The WBEA launched the Community Odour Monitoring Program (COMP) and the COMP App so people could anonymously submit odour observations and track odour events in the RMWB. The collected information is then compared to the ambient air quality parameters measured at the WBEA's air monitoring stations to determine if there is a relationship between regional odours and air quality. Submitted observations can be found at comp.wbea.org, and findings are reported to the public in an annual report. The 2019 COMP Annual Report can be found [here](#).

Please share your odour observations on the COMP app (available for [iOS](#) and [Android](#) devices) and help us better understand the odours in our region!

SENIORS WEEK JUNE 7-13



MONDAY 07

Kick Off Trivia 2 PM

Presented by the Seniors Resource Committee and hosted by Golden Years Society.

Register at 780-743-4088 or by emailing goldenyears1976@shaw.ca to receive a Zoom link. Prizes for top three winners.

TUESDAY 08

Tailgate Tuesday 12 NOON

Hosted by St. Aidan's Society.

Registration opens on June 1. To register or for more information contact Heather or Kimberley at 780-743-4370 Ext 1 or 3.

THURSDAY 10

Movement for Mental Health 10 AM - 11 AM

Presented by YMCA Supports for Wellness Team featuring Miss Kelli.

Join Zoom Meeting
Meeting ID: 869 8728 2611
Passcode: 049647

FRIDAY 11

Coffee Time 10 AM

Sponsored by Golden Years Society.

Virtual Bingo 2 PM

Sponsored by the Seniors Resource Committee and hosted by Golden Years Society.

You do not need to be a member of Golden Years Society to attend any event during Seniors Week, all events are open to people 55+ in the region.

WEDNESDAY 09

Virtual Name That Tune 2 PM - 3 PM

Hosted by the Wood Buffalo Regional Library.

Register Here

Seniors Week Meals 5 PM - 7 PM

Hosted by Royal Canadian Legion

Come enjoy a discounted seniors week meal on the patio while listening to your favourite 40s-60s music and stay for

Seniors Trivia Night

Register by contacting Stephanie at 780-743-2329 or email royalcanadianlegion@shaw.ca

JUNE 15



Presented by: Wood Buffalo Senior Resource Committee





IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

PULSE (MUNICIPAL SWITCH BOARD)	1-800-973-9663 780-743-7000	PULSE@RMWB.CA	RMWB.CA/PULSE
COMMUNITY CONTACTS:		SOCIAL MEDIA:	
RCMP	780-788-4000	 @WOODBUFFALORURALCOMMUNITYCONNECTION  @RMWOODBUFFALO  @RMWOODBUFFALO	
FISH & WILDLIFE	780-743-7200		
HEALTH LINK	811		
ALL EMERGENCIES	911		

To submit information to the newsletter please email:

koralee.samaroden@rmwb.ca

Deadline for July newsletter submissions:

June 25, 2021

Residents in rural communities can contact the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo 24/7 by contacting Pulse via the following:

- 780-743-7000
- 1-800-973-9663 (toll-free)
- www.rmwb.ca/pulse








780-743-7000 • 1-800-973-9663
rmwb.ca/pulse

Call. Submit online.
 Real answers every time, all the time.



JUNE 2021

COMMUNITY EVENTS & PROGRAMS CALENDAR

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4 	5
6	7	8	9	10	11 	12
13	14	15	16	17	18 	19 Big Bin Event 9-3pm Vista Ridge
20 	21	22	23	24	25 Newsletter Deadline 	26
27	28	29	30			