

SAPRAE CREEK NEWS



April 2022

Covid-19

Stay Informed

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 provincial updates, please visit alberta.ca/COVID19.

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

Government of Alberta eases some COVID-19 measures

In February, the Government of Alberta announced a [three step plan](#) for easing provincial public health measures. As of March 1, the province has moved into Step 2 of the plan. This means the province-wide mask mandate is now lifted for most areas, except for in continuing care settings, AHS-operated and contracted facilities and on public transit for Albertans 13 and older.

Learn more about the Government of Alberta's three step plan [here](#).

Vaccine Program

The Government of Alberta's Vaccine Program continues to be on-going.

Everyone 5+ can now get vaccinated. [Third doses](#) are available to everyone 12+ and to adolescents 2 to 17 with underlying health conditions.

Book your appointment [online](#) or by calling 811, or visit your nearest [walk-in clinic](#).

To learn more, visit alberta.ca/vaccine.

ENGINEERING UPDATE

Project Name: Saprae Creek Trail Culvert Rehabilitation

Current status: The contractor is clearing snow, hydrovac-ing, and steaming ice in the culverts to thaw the ice in order to clean the culverts for rehabilitation work along Saprae Creek Trail.

Next steps: The rehabilitation of the culvert and the landscaping work are to be completed this summer.

Expected Project Completion Date: Expected completion date of the rehabilitation portion is May 2022, and the landscaping work is to be completed by end of summer 2022

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Project Name: L Robert Industrial Park Lift Station, Forcemain and A Frame Road Upgrades

Current status: A-Frame Road asphalt and ditching is to commence in the spring. The lift station base and wall rebar work is ongoing inside the excavation. The forcemain drilling is 85% complete with two more shots (crossing the road into the LS and crossing the road for Bishop Towing servicing) remaining. Final tie-ins and pressure testing will follow.

Next steps: Finalizing LS rebar, concrete pour, and completion of forcemain HDD.

Expected Project Completion Date: June 30, 2023

Vehicle for Hire Bylaw Updates

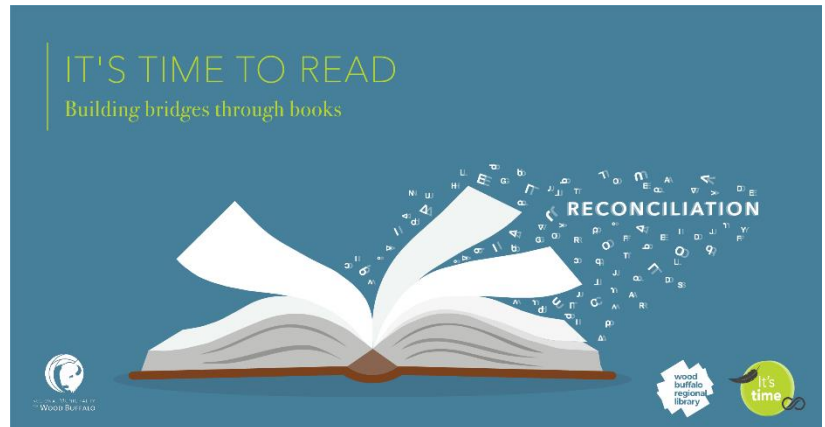
Do we have a green light on proposed changes to the Vehicle for Hire Bylaw?

The RMWB gathered and reviewed your feedback from previous engagement before creating draft bylaw changes – and we want to hear what you think.

Starting April 13, 2022, you’re invited to review collective community feedback regarding safety, fares and fees, ridesharing and so much more. Learn how you can provide final input to the draft bylaw by visiting rmwb.ca/participate.



The *It's Time to Read* book club returns in April to read its second book, *The Strangers* by Katherena Vermette. Step into the dynamic world of the Stranger family, the strength of their bond, the shared pain in their past, and the light that beckons from the horizon. This is a searing exploration of race, class, inherited trauma, and the matrilineal bonds that – despite everything – refuse to be broken. While the characters face hard, almost impossible journeys, *The Strangers* also features a glimpse into resilience and survival, where readers can find compassion and empathy.



Please note, this book is not for young readers and may be triggering and unsuitable for some. It contains disturbing content, including physical violence, drug and alcohol use and addiction, thoughts of suicide, child apprehension, solitary incarceration, as well as adult language.

The Strangers can be found wherever you get your books, as well as through the Library and on the community bookshelf. Join the book club at <https://participate.rmwb.ca/it-s-time-to-read>.



River Breakup preparations are underway

What is river breakup?

In April and May, there is an increased risk of flooding when ice on the Athabasca and Clearwater rivers begin to melt and break apart. [Alberta Environment and Parks](#), engineering teams and the Municipality closely monitor ice and water conditions on the river systems in the Region. Regular updates on the Athabasca and Clearwater rivers will be provided, beginning in April.

For more information on river breakup, visit rmwb.ca/riverbreakup.

For additional information or questions, connect with Pulse at 780-743-7000, 1-800-973-9663 or rmwb.ca/pulse.

Be prepared

As river breakup approaches, community members are reminded to be aware, prepare and stay informed.

It is important to prepare for river breakup and stay safe by:

- Downloading the Alertable app to receive [municipal emergency alerts](#)
- Signing up for [Alberta Emergency Alerts](#) by downloading the app
- Taking [proactive measures to prepare households](#)
- Reviewing [community emergency plans](#) and having a [household emergency plan](#)
- Having a [72-hour emergency kit ready](#)

Alertable –receive Municipal emergency alerts

Residents can receive critical emergency alerts right from the Municipality through the Alertable app. Alertable is a third-party platform that allows the Municipality to issue critical emergency alerts to those who have downloaded the app.

Alertable is free to download and available for iOS and Android smartphones through the Apple Store or Google Play. Once downloaded, select your location within the region. If there is ever an active emergency near you, you will receive Municipal emergency notifications through the app. Notifications are fast, reliable, private and easy to hear, see and read. Learn more about Alertable at rmwb.ca/emergencyalerts.

River monitoring – Download the AB Rivers app

Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP) actively monitor ice and water conditions on all river systems in Alberta, including the Athabasca and Clearwater rivers. While the Municipality also monitors these rivers and works closely with AEP, it is the professional river forecasters with the Province that issue all ice advisories, ice jam warnings and flood warnings.

For all river updates, download the Alberta Rivers smartphone app or visit rivers.alberta.ca.

Is water dripping from your roof creating a hazard?



While water dripping from your roof or awning may put a smile on your face with thoughts of spring, it may also put ice on the ground and a frown on your neighbour's face.

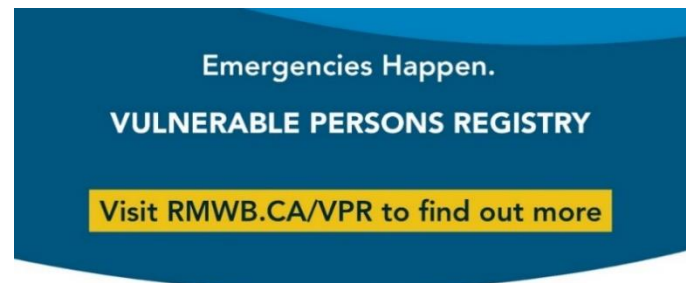
Keep your neighbourhood sidewalks and streets safe by ensuring that any water dripping from a roof or awning is cleared to prevent ice from forming.

The Vulnerable Persons Registry (VPR) is a free, voluntary and confidential service provided to residents of the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo.

The VPR was developed to assist vulnerable persons in the Region during emergency evacuations and fire dispatched 9-1-1 calls. The program is available to residents who experience any of the following:

- Mobility issues
- Visual or hearing impairments
- Developmental or cognitive impairments
- Challenges related to mental health
- Residents who require electricity for life-sustaining equipment such as life support, oxygen, dialysis, etc.
- Short term assistance (due to illness or recovery from surgery)

If you know someone who could benefit from the VPR program, visit rmwb.ca/vpr for more information.



Test your sump pump before spring

Like your furnace or smoke detectors, sump pumps also need to be regularly checked, operated and maintained to ensure they are in good working order when needed. A faulty sump pump can lead to expensive repairs for homeowners.

Make sure to check the exterior discharge hose to ensure its free of snow, ice and other debris before performing the test.

You should perform maintenance on your sump pump every spring before the snow melt and every few months. Ask your plumber for more information about how you can maintain your sump pump.



Ensure your sump pump is not creating a safety hazard!

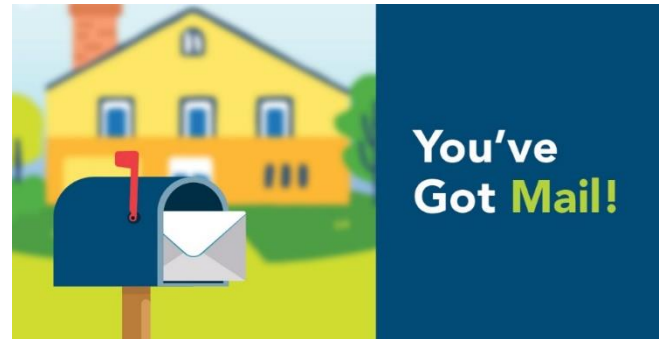
Drainage from sump pumps can lead to ice buildups on sidewalks and streets creating hazards during the winter months. Remember, it is illegal for your sump pump drainage to be directed to an adjacent property or an adjacent alley, street, sidewalk or other public place that may cause damage or create a danger (Community Standards Bylaw No. 21/010).

Be a good neighbour and ensure your sump pump drainage is not creating safety hazards.

Check the mail! – 2022 Property Assessments are on the way

Make sure to check the mail for your 2022 property assessment notice.

- If you have questions or concerns about your assessment, please visit our frequently asked questions at rmwb.ca/assessments or speak to an assessor by emailing pulse@rmwb.ca or calling Pulse at 780-743-7000 or toll-free 1-800-973-9663.



Why is this important?

The assessed value of your property will be used to establish the amount of property tax billed. Any error on your Property Assessment Notice could impact that amount.

- Your assessment reflects an estimated market value of your property as of July 1, 2021, including any physical changes up to December 31, 2021.

Tax rates are not disputable, so it is important to ensure that your assessed value is accurate before the 4:30 p.m. deadline on **April 12, 2022**.

Pet Preparedness



Prepare your furry friend!

For many of us our fur babies are part of the family and as part of the family they should be prepared too! National pet day is April 11, what better way to your pet some love than to make sure they're considered in your emergency planning.

Top Tips:

- 1) Place a notice at your front door that there are pets in the house and a contact number
- 2) Have you pet's information on hand. Gather important documents such as pet medical records, vet contact, and registrations
- 3) Have a pet plan (place to stay, packing up essentials etc)
- 4) Don't forget comfort items like blankets, treats and toys!



2022 - 2023

ANNUAL POLICING PRIORITIES

VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE

April 27, 2022



The Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo (RMWB) is partnering with Wood Buffalo RCMP to host a region-wide virtual open house on Wednesday, April 27, from 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. to discuss policing priorities in the region. The RCMP will launch this year's priorities by addressing findings from the 2022-2023 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.

Ask A Cop A Question

LET'S CONNECT!
**COMMUNITY
POLICING**

Have you ever wondered what you would ask a cop? Now is your chance! Knowing what's important in YOUR community is valuable to the RCMP. **Submit your questions at rmwb.ca/participate**

Be a Community Influencer

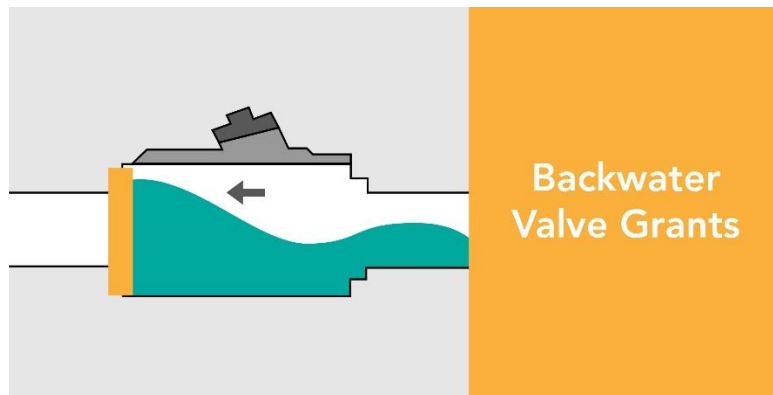
Have you ever wanted to become an influencer? If you're in grade seven or eight and want to enter for your chance to become a Community Influencer. All you need to do is grab a few post cards and ask your friends and family what they'd like to ask a cop. Influencers will be chosen based on participation and will **co-host a virtual Q&A** with Wood

Buffalo RCMP. Did we mention you could **win a police pizza party** for the chosen influencer and their class?

To enroll visit rmwb.ca/participate

1. Take post cards
2. Get your community to ask questions
3. Co-Host a Virtual Q&A with RCMP

Stay tuned for the launch of the program starting **April 12**. For more information visit rmwb.ca/rcmp.



Backwater valve grants are available to homeowners across the region

Municipal grants continue to be available to homeowners across the region who have installed backwater valves in their homes since May 1, 2020. This applies to homeowners who live in both flood affected areas and non-flood affected areas.

What the grant covers

The grants reimburse a portion of the costs for the purchase and installation of a backwater valve. Homes located in Zone 1 are eligible for up to \$1,500 and homes located in Zone 2 (flood hazard areas) are eligible for up to \$3,000.

Find out what zone your home is in at rmwb.ca/backwatervalve.

Eligibility

To qualify for a backwater valve grant, the following criteria must be met:

- The home is a single-family dwelling or a separately serviced side-by-side duplex dwelling.
- The dwelling was built prior to 2000. (Starting in 2000, municipal bylaws require new homes to include a backwater valve.)
- The property is serviced directly from the municipal sewer system.
- A grant has not been previously provided for the same location.
- The applicant is the owner of the home or has permission from the owner(s).
- The property is in good standing with the Municipality, including up-to-date utility payments and property taxes.

How to apply

All eligible homeowners can apply for a backwater valve grant at rmwb.ca/backwatervalve.

Whether your valve has already been installed, or you are planning to have it installed soon, it's important to review the application process to ensure all steps are completed correctly.

Learn more about the Backwater Valve Grant Program at rmwb.ca/backwatervalve or by calling Pulse at 1-800-973-9663.



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	
FISH & WILDLIFE	780-743-7200		
HEALTH LINK	811		
ALL EMERGENCIES	911	 @RMWOODBUFFALO	
		 @RMWOODBUFFALO	

To submit information to the newsletter please email:

koralee.samaroden@rmwb.ca

Deadline for May newsletter submissions:

April 25th, 2022

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)



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

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



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 GOOD FRIDAY RWMB OFFICES CLOSED 	16
17 	18 EASTER MONDAY RWMB OFFICES CLOSED	19	20	21	22 	23
24	25 Newsletter Deadline	26	27	28	29 	30