

SAPRAE CREEK NEWS



MARCH 2024



REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY
OF **WOOD BUFFALO**

Saprae Creek Estates

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Vista Ridge
1 Spruce Valley Drive



Date
Thursday April 4th, 2024



Time
7:00PM



Details
Update on RMWB projects
in Saprae Creek; RES,
FireSmart, RWSS, open
discussion by residents.



Construction Communication 2023



How did construction communication measure up in 2023?

The What We Heard Report is now online. This report outlines what was done for the engagement, common themes that came from your feedback, and a summary of survey responses.

Learn more about the participation we saw from rural communities, what participants had to say about the rural newsletter, and more.

Thank you to everyone who shared feedback.

Find the report at rmwb.ca/participation.

For any questions, please contact Pulse!

PULSE

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

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

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

Be prepared for extreme cold and winter storms

In winter, weather conditions in Wood Buffalo can change quickly and become dangerous. With temperatures changing do your part to keep safe and be prepared.

- **Avoid driving during blizzards or freezing rain** - wait several hours after the storm ends before going anywhere.
- **Keep the gas tank topped up** - When driving in bad weather, plan and make sure you have enough fuel. Keep the fuel tank at least half full.
- **Have a vehicle emergency kit** – include food that won't spoil, water – in plastic bottles, a blanket, extra clothes, shoes, first aid kit – with seatbelt cutter, small shovel, candle in a deep can and matches, flashlight, whistle, and road maps.



Extreme cold – When temperatures or the wind chill index reaches -40

- Stay indoors when possible. If you have to travel by car, know your route ahead of time and make sure you have a well-stocked emergency kit.
- Dress in warm, windproof layers. Watch for signs of frostbite, which can occur in less than 10 minutes in extreme cold.
- When working outside, do not overexert yourself. Sweating can lead to hypothermia.
- Make sure your pets have warm shelter during a cold snap.

For more information on what to do in severe weather visit our website or use the QR code.



BYLAW BRIEFS

Driveway snow removal reminder

Snow removal is an inevitable part of winter in our region. The proper cleaning and clearing of snow ensure public safety on roadways, sidewalks, and driveways. Collaborative efforts from the Municipality and residents make proper snow removal possible.

Bylaw Services would like to remind residents to remove snow or ice on sidewalks adjacent to their property within 48 hours after a snowfall and that the snow should not be placed on a Highway, Public Place or private property that is not their own.

PLEASE AVOID pushing your snow into the road or ditches.

Bylaw Services thanks residents for their compliance as this ensures a safe Wood Buffalo. For any questions regarding snow removal visit rmwb.ca/snow or contact PULSE at 780-743-7000. For more information, please review the [Community Standards Bylaw No. 21/010](#).

SAPRAE CREEK ESTATES SEWER PROGRAM

Spring is just around the corner! Time to think about the 2024 construction season.

Rural water and sewer servicing is available in Saprae Creek Estates! Applications are being **accepted!**

Many of you have already connected and we want to thank those who did!

We understand this is a big decision. To make it easier, we've refreshed our website, rmwb.ca/rwss and the [Homeowner Connection Guide](#).

Here's the steps to apply:

Step 1: Choose your contractor.

- Choose a certified contractor from Alberta Municipal Affairs.
- You can find a list of **local** certified contractors at rmwb.ca/rwss.
- Your contractor will then provide a quote to connect your home.

Step 2: Complete your application form.

- Download the application package from rmwb.ca/rwss and submit to rwss.applications@rmwb.ca.

Step 3: Submit your application fee.

- Submit your \$200 application fee at pay.rmwb.ca or by mailing your cheque to the RMWB.

Step 4: Connect with us!

- Have questions? Need help with your application? Connect with us through Pulse, and a connection specialist will follow up to answer your questions.



Can my contractor take care of the entire process – from application to construction? We understand this might be overwhelming. You may write a letter/ email to your contractor, and state that you allow them to act on your behalf if you would prefer they take the lead.



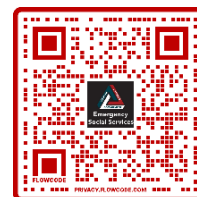
Connect with us: To talk to a connection specialist, contact us through Pulse at 780-743-7000 or toll-free at 1-800-973-9663.

Emergency Social Services (ESS)

ESS provides individuals or families with supports when they are displaced due to an emergency. Registration centres or other evacuation sites are set up to register evacuees and provide immediate basic needs. This support is available to provide a safe place for evacuees to plan their next steps as they transition to recovery.

Registration centres may provide the following services:

- Food/water
- Shelter
- Clothing
- First Aid/emotional support
- Family reunification
- Animal care and rescue assistance



To learn more about ESS, or to join the ESS Team, scan the QR code below:

VPR

Emergencies happen. If you are a vulnerable person living in the region, you may be at greater risk during an emergency.



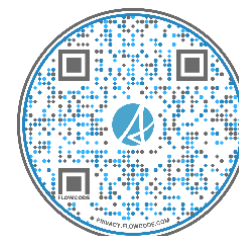
**Vulnerable
Persons
Registry**

The Vulnerable Persons Registry (VPR) is a 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 first responders about individuals on the VPR. Click [here](#) to find out more about the VPR.

MAERS

The MyAlberta Emergency Registration System is available to all residents of Alberta as a tool to assist during an evacuation or emergency. Albertans can register themselves and their family members in advance of an emergency using their MyAlberta Digital ID. Click [here](#) or scan below to pre-register today.



Assessment notices are on their way to property owners in the RMWB

Appeals must be filed by April 29, 2024

(Fort McMurray, AB – February 23, 2024) – If you own property in the region, you will be receiving your assessment notice by mail in the next few days. Notices were issued by the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo on February 20 to residential and commercial property owners. Assessment notices contain important information about a property's value and help to ensure each property owner pays their fair share of property taxes in 2024.

Understanding your notice

For the 2024 taxation year, the property assessments are based on July 1, 2023 market values and physical conditions as of Dec. 31, 2023. Assessments are then used to calculate your annual property tax. Property tax notices are sent out in May once Council reviews and approves the 2024 Property Tax Rate Bylaw. You can also access information about your property assessment using the [online search tool](#) on the municipal website.

Filing an appeal

After speaking with an assessor, property owners who still have concerns with their assessment, may file an appeal with the Assessment Review Board before the April 29 deadline. For more information on how to file an appeal, visit rmwb.ca/assessments.

2024 Assessment and Taxation Key Dates

Date	Activity
July 1, 2023	Valuation date for assessment
Dec. 31, 2023	Physical condition and characteristics date of property for assessment
Feb. 20, 2024	Assessment Notices Mailed
Feb. 28, 2024	Notice of Assessment Date
Feb. 28 – April 29, 2024	2024 Customer Review Period
April 29, 2024	Final date to file a complaint with the Assessment Review Board
May 2024	2024 Property Tax Bylaw approved – property tax bills mailed
June 30, 2024	2024 Property Taxes due

Request for Information (RFI)-Watch your mail in March

Some residents will also be receiving a RFI notice in the mail. This information helps the RMWB to collect information about your property so the Assessment office can calculate a fair and equitable market values assessment. The RFI cycles through different neighbourhoods, so you won't receive one every year for the same property.

Learn more about assessments and property taxes at rmwb.ca/taxes.

For questions about your assessment notice and more information, contact Pulse at 780-743-7000, 1-800-973-9663 or rmwb.ca/pulse.

Take your creative project from idea to reality

Arts, Culture and Heritage Grant applications are now open for 2024



The Arts, Culture and Heritage Grant provides **up to \$5,000** for projects that create, inspire and preserve within the cultural landscape of the region.

Apply early!

Individuals and groups may apply for a maximum of \$5,000. The deadline for grant applications is Dec. 31, 2024 at 4:30 p.m. MST or until the total \$50,000 funding is exhausted, whichever comes first.

Apply early through the Community Investment Program (CIP) Grant Portal as funding is awarded in order of completed applications received.

What projects are eligible?

Projects must align with the priorities of the **Wood Buffalo Culture Plan**. The eligibility list varies and ranges from performing arts to heritage restoration to landscape design. Most creative projects are eligible for the Arts, Culture and Heritage Grant.

Projects that have received grant support in previous years include:

- The Hidden Gems of YMM mural
- Fort MacBeth, a mockumentary film
- “Eighteen the Day I Died”, a solo performance

One-on-one support available

We understand that the application process can be daunting, and we're here to help! Contact Pulse to connect with the CIP team for one-on-one support.

Get started today by visiting rmwb.ca/CIP.

Showcase your talent with Public Art Wood Buffalo

Looking to flex your creative skills? Learn more – and apply – for the following artist opportunities at rmwb.ca/PublicArt.

Wood Buffalo Mural Festival

This summer, we'll play host to the Wood Buffalo Mural Festival! Featuring live mural painting, workshops and community engagement activities, the festival aims to celebrate art, culture and community through vibrant and captivating murals.

Mural artists from across Canada are invited to submit a proposal; up to five artists will be selected. Compensation will be based on the size and scope of the mural, and most supplies and equipment will be provided.

Not interested in picking up a paintbrush but able to provide a canvas? Building owners, we are in need of venues for festival murals!

Submit an artist proposal or apply as a mural venue by April 15.

2024 Street Banner Program explores the Spirit of Water

Every year, residents of all ages and skill levels are encouraged to showcase their talents through the Street Banner Program. Selected designs will receive a \$600 design fee, a screened banner and the opportunity to be displayed throughout the region!

This year's theme, the Spirit of Water, invites you to dive in and explore the incredible power and beauty of water.

Submit artwork by May 3 at 4 p.m.

Art for Social Change

Could your art be a tool to create positive change for those facing barriers due to a lack of accessibility and inclusion?

The Art for Social Change project invites artists living within Western Canada to submit proposals for site-specific public art installations that creatively explore and interpret the theme of Accessibility.

The call is open to any artistic discipline. Up to six projects will be selected, each with a budget of up to \$10,000.

Submit a project proposal by May 6.

Subscribe to the artist roster

Join the artist roster to receive emails about upcoming artist calls, programs, events and information sessions at rmwb.ca/PublicArt.

Walking Safety Tips



Walk Facing Traffic: If there is no sidewalk and you must walk on the side of the road, choose the side where you are facing oncoming traffic. This gives you the best chance to see traffic approaching closest to you and take evasive action if necessary.

Cross Safely: Look both ways before crossing any street. Make eye contact with any drivers who may be turning. Give them a wave. Make sure they see you.

Walk Single File: Unless you are on a sidewalk separate from the road, you should walk single file. This is especially important on a road with lots of curves. While it can be enjoyable to walk down the road two or three abreast chatting merrily, drivers don't expect it.

Stay aware of bikes and runners: Share the road and path with bikes and runners. Bike riders should alert you when approaching from behind with a bike bell or a "passing on the left/right." Listen for them.

Be Visible: Wear bright colors when walking in daytime. When walking at night wear light-colored clothing and reflective clothing or reflective vest to be visible.

Hang Up and Eyes Up: Chatting or texting while walking is as dangerous as doing that while driving. You are distracted and not as aware of your environment. You are less likely to recognize traffic danger, passing joggers and bikers or tripping hazards. Potential criminals can also see you as a distracted easy target.

When walking your pet: keep your pet on the side away from traffic so that they don't accidentally dart into the roadway.



Be *BearSmart* at home

- Never leave food out for wildlife.
- Always keep your garbage in a garage or in a bear-resistant container until it can be removed from your property.
- Remove bird feeders from your yard between April and October. Clean up spilled bird seed regularly.
- Store pet food indoors and bring in pet dishes overnight.
- Thoroughly clean barbecues after each use and store them in a garage.
- Cover compost piles with soil or lime or use an indoor compost.
- Ensure that all fruit and berries are removed from trees and shrubs as early as possible.
- Talk to your neighbours about being BearSmart at home.
- If there's a bear in your community, call the nearest Fish and Wildlife office at 310-0000 or, after business hours, the Report a Poacher line at 1-800-642-3800.



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Photo Credit: Mike Ewald (bear image)

Travel Alberta (border image)

**Government
of Alberta** ■



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:
ruralnewsletters@rmwb.ca

Deadline for April Newsletter submissions:
 MARCH 25, 2024

COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 Vista Ridge Live Music – Dan Gillies 6-9 PM Winter PLAY 	2 WinterPLAY
3 WinterPLAY	4 Blizzard by FLIP Fabrique Keyano Theatre 7:30PM	5 ATC Career Fair Synchrude Sport and Wellness Centre 10:00-3:00 PM	6 ATC Career Fair Synchrude Sport and Wellness Centre 10:00 – 3:00 PM	7 Arts in Action Leather Art 60+ Redpoll Centre 5:00-8:00PM	8 St Patrick’s Day Party Wood Buffalo Regional Library 6-8 PM 	9
10	11 Tax Clinic Wood Buffalo Regional Library 10:30-4:00 PM	12	13 Fort McMurray Job Fair Shell Place 11:30-7:00 PM	14 Irish Descendants Keyano Recital Theatre 7:30 PM	15 	16
17 St. Patrick’s Day 	18	19 Hello Spring! 	20	21 Cree Language Learning Wood Buffalo Regional Library 6-7 PM	22 	23 Hoppy Easter Heritage Village 11:00-4:00 PM
24 Hoppy Easter Heritage Village 11:00-4:00 PM	25 Newsletter Deadline	26	27	28	29 Good Friday Municipal Office Closed 	30
31 Easter 	1 Easter Monday Municipal Office Closed	2	3	4 Community Engagement 7pm Vista Ridge	5 	6