



A sister publication to **The Review**, Redwater, Alberta

Morinville town council passes 2024 budget with 5.21% tax increase after amendments

By Colin Smith

Morinville Town Council has approved a 2024 budget that is expected to result in a 5.21% tax increase for Morinville homeowners.

The tax hike amounts to \$12.53 per month for an average residential property, valued at \$350,000.

Council made the decision at its regular meeting Tuesday, bringing a quick end to the 2024 budget development process, which began in the spring and included community engagement and several regular and special council meetings.

In a vote of six in favour to one opposed, council members passed an amended version of the operating budget brought forward on November 14 by the administration.

That budget, as proposed, would have led to a tax increase of 7.3%, with the cost for an average home valued at \$350,000 rising by \$17.76 per month next year, or \$213.08.

That proposal was rejected by the council, which supported a motion made by Councillor Stephen Dafoe calling on the administration to find \$200,000 in operational savings in the budget.

Administration came back to the meeting Tuesday with four proposed alternatives for council, the first of which was accepting the operating budget as it was, but with a reduction to an estimated monthly tax increase of \$16.48 or 6.85%.

The second alternative was a budget

Continued on **page 2**

St. Jean Baptiste Church designs unveiled, construction set to begin May 2024

By Stephen Dafoe

Four years, five months, and 25 days after a fire destroyed the 113-year-old St. Jean Baptiste Church in Morinville, the bells will ring again on Christmas Day 2025. The Parish expects to break ground on a new church in May of 2024, with the church completed in time for Christmas the following year.

Parishioners and area residents got to look at the new place of worship on Thursday, Nov. 30, at an open house at St. Kateri Tekakwitha Academy.

St. Jean Baptiste Parish's Father Trini Pinca said he is excited the project is moving forward, and the Parish will soon be able to return to a church from Ecole Notre Dame, where mass has occurred since the fire.

"This has been two years and a few months since we lost our church, and of course, it has been very challenging as a pastor, especially celebrating mass in a school," Father Trini said. "They were in a church for years, and now it is in a gym. Seeing these plans moving forward, I'm excited, and I think most of our parishioners are in the same place; they are excited and hoping that our new church will come into reality."



Designs for the new St. Jean Baptiste Church show a modern church with a traditional design. The bell tower will stand 75 feet above 100 Avenue and is separated from the church proper to allow the bells to ring clearly once again.

The design displayed during the open house incorporates input from the 382 Parish and community members who provided their thoughts in 2022.

"We have listened to what our parishioners have mentioned," Trini said of the new designs. "Prior to the drawings and the plans, we made the survey, and we asked our parishioners what they wanted to see in our new church. The majority answered they wanted to see a traditional church. I think the reason for that is there is an attachment to the old church that we lost,

and having a traditional style church is one way of honouring our ancestors of Morinville who have contributed all of their lives with their talents and their resources."

Modern church with a traditional look

Christopher Filipowicz of Start Architecture said incorporating the concepts into the design was not that difficult because of the strong desire to create a modern church in terms of its architecture, technology, and techniques

Continued on **page 10**



Westmor Dental

- Under New Management
- Accepting New Patients
- Get Your Summer Cleaning

Book your
appointment now:
780-809-1212



Email: info@westmordental.ca • www.westmordental.ca
fax: 780-809-1213 • Unit 9, 8807 100 St. Morinville, Alberta T8R 1V5

Locally Owned & Operated

MEDS & CARE PHARMACY

PHARMACIST WALK-IN CLINIC

Get treatment for minor illnesses at our Pharmacy

FLU SHOTS & COVID VACCINE
Walk-ins Welcome

Call: 780-939-4439 :: 9507 100St. Morinville :: medsnrcarepharmacy@gmail.com

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Morinville town council passes 2024 budget with 5.21% tax increase after amendments

without desired service level increases, resulting in a reduction of \$181,226 from total budgeted expenses of \$26,930,393 and a 5.93% rate increase.

Alternatives three and four would achieve a net reduction of \$200,000, with a 5.25% increase, an estimated \$12.62 monthly, by cancelling the municipal census proposed for 2024, increasing the salary and benefit attrition estimate and possibly discontinuing the community bus.

A motion by Deputy Mayor Jen Anheliger to go ahead with the third alternative but without the removal of the community bus or census was amended by Councillor Stephen Dafoe to drop the census and by Councillor Scott Richardson to increase the salary and benefit attrition estimate from \$100,000

to \$140,000.

This version provides about \$200,000 in savings over the previously proposed budget, resulting in a 5.21% tax increase.

“I think with this budget we can reinvest in Morinville in ways that affect our service levels in ways that are tangible and meaningful to our residents,” said Anheliger.

“And I’m glad we have approached this budget a little bit differently because I think if we continue to short-change every budget as I feel we have with previous budgets, it’s going to undermine any chance we have of moving forward with growth in a meaningful way.”

The budget motion was supported by Mayor Simon Boersma, Anheliger, and Councillors Maurice St. Denis, Scott Richardson, Stephen Dafoe and Ray

White. Councillor Rebecca Balanko was opposed.

Budgeted operational expenses for 2024 include \$12,490,683 for salaries, wages, benefits and training, \$5,950,344 for material goods and utilities and \$5,366,783 for contracted and general services.

Other expenses next year include \$559,096 for the Morinville Community Library next year, unchanged from 2023, and \$113,516 for the Morinville Historical Society, up from \$110,210 the previous year.

At the meeting, Council also unanimously approved the 2024-2033 Long-term Capital Plan, which includes a total of \$4,882,000 in capital spending, primarily on roads, for next year, and, in principle, the 2024-2028 Long-term Operating Plan.



The 2024 Morinville Budget includes \$4,882,000 in capital spending, primarily on infrastructure revitalization projects. The approved budget will result in a 5.21% increase; however, Council will have opportunity in spring to lower that number depending on surplus and assessment numbers.



An historic barn rises on the horizon above a couple of vintage Chevrolet trucks at Hillcrest Farms in Sturgeon County. The historic family farm will soon undergo a major restoration. - Stephen Dafoe Photo

PUBLIC HEARING – Bylaw 1638/23 Road Closure Bylaw 1638/23

Sturgeon County Council requests public input on proposed Bylaw 1638/23.

Cando Rail & Terminals has requested a partial closure of Range Road 222 to facilitate the expansion of the business. The closure is between Township Road 555 and Township Road 560. As a result of the proposed road closure, Cando proposes to develop a bypass around its site.

A road closure bylaw is needed to close a portion of the road and a public hearing must be held. The bylaw and all feedback received during the public hearing will be forwarded to the Minister of Transportation and Economic Corridors for review and approval before Council considers approval of the road closure.

Public Hearing details

The Public Hearing will be held in person and via videoconference on: **Tuesday, January 16 at 1:00 p.m.** (or as soon as practical thereafter) Sturgeon County Council Chambers (9613 100 St. in Morinville)
You can view the hearing online at sturgeoncounty.ca/CouncilMeetings



Questions? Contact us!

Mark Morrissey
Economic Innovation and Growth
780-939-0625
mmorrissey@sturgeoncounty.ca

Important information about Public Hearings

Requirements for speakers

All speakers have five minutes to speak and are encouraged to provide a written copy of their submission before the Public Hearing.

Speaking in person

To speak at the Public Hearing in person, contact Legislative Services at 780-939-8277 or 780-939-1377 to pre-register.

Speaking via videoconference

To speak at the Public Hearing via videoconference, you **must** register by January 15 at 1:00 p.m. by contacting Legislative Services at 780-939-8277 or 780-939-1377. This ensures you receive instructions to access the videoconference.

Written submissions

Email your written submission to Legislative Services at legislativeservices@sturgeoncounty.ca. Written submissions are accepted up to the close of the Public Hearing.

If making a written submission, you must include your name, state your interest in the matter (such as a County resident directly impacted by the proposed bylaw), and indicate if you are in favour of or opposed to the proposed bylaw.

Watching the Public Hearing

You can view the Public Hearing in person or online at sturgeoncounty.ca/CouncilMeetings. To view the livestream, click on the meeting date on the calendar, then click on the video link.

Morinville Jets take back-to-back big wins

By Stephen Dafoe



In their sixth and seventh consecutive wins, the Morinville Junior B Jets outscored their opponents by a factor of 10-to-one.

On Friday, December 8 the Jets defeated the Spruce Grove Regals 10-1 on the road and repeated that score and outcome at home against the visiting Leduc Co-Op Riggers.

The December 8 outing saw the Jets dominating the ice, outshooting the Regals 56-16.

The Jets led the day early on, building to a 3-0 lead after one and advancing that to 5-0 before the Regals capitalized on a power play opportunity to chip back at the lead by one.

But the Jets pocketed another on the powerplay to lead 6-1.

The Jets added another four in the final frame to take the

them to second place in the Capital Junior Hockey League's West Division, eight points behind the St. Albert Merchants.

Although the Jets are only one point ahead of the North Edmonton Red Wings, they sit four games behind them.

The closest contender for second place competition is the Beverly Warriors, who have also played 22 games this season and are just two points behind the Jets.

The Morinville Jets played two more games before the Christmas break: a road game against the Wetaskiwin Icemen on Sunday, December 17, and a home-ice game against the Spruce Grove Regals on Tuesday, December 19, at the Morinville AAA Arena. Game time is 8 p.m. Results were not available by our press deadline.

day handily. Jacob Klassen picked up a hat trick during the game.

Sunday, December 10 was a repeat of Friday's efforts, with the Jets outshooting the Riggers 60-22.

Leading the Riggers 5-0 at the end of one, the Jets pocketed another three in the middle frame to create an insurmountable 8-0 lead heading into the final frame. Although the Riggers pocketed one on the powerplay early in the third period, the Jets answered back with another two goals to mirror their Friday night score.

The back-to-back wins give the Jets a 16-6-0 record this season, elevating



Sturgeon County's 100 Year Farm Family Award recognizes families who have lived and farmed in the County for 100 years or more.

If you meet the following criteria, your family may qualify for this award!

- Your family has owned the land for at least one hundred consecutive years, which can be demonstrated through documentation and records of ownership.
- You are a direct descendant of the homesteader.
- Your family is currently farming the land.
- You, or another direct descendant of the original homesteader, still reside on the parcel of land.

Applications can be submitted with ownership records and documentation via:

Online: www.sturgeoncounty.ca/farmfamily

For more information, or assistance with submitting an application, please visit: www.sturgeoncounty.ca/AgAwards, or call 780-939-8349.

The deadline for application submissions is Friday, March 22, 2024.



RCMP ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

Morinville RCMP and Medical Examiner's Office investigate motor vehicle collision involving a pedestrian on Highway 37

On December 12, 2023, at 6:40 p.m., Morinville RCMP responded to a collision involving a pedestrian and a single motor vehicle on Highway 37 near Range Road 270 in Sturgeon County. The initial investigation revealed that a male pedestrian, approximately 30-years-old, wearing dark clothing came in to contact with a passing motorist. EMS attended however the pedestrian was pronounced deceased on scene.

Traffic on the highway was diverted for several hours while a RCMP Collision Reconstructionist assisted with the investigation.

Identification of the pedestrian is pending consultation with the Medical Examiner's Office.

Any persons who may have seen what or who have dash cam footage are asked to contact the Morinville RCMP detachment.

If you have any information about this incident, please call the Morinville RCMP at 780-939-4520. If you want to remain anonymous, you can contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS), online at www.P3Tips.com or by using the "P3 Tips" app available through the Apple App or Google Play Store.

Fort Saskatchewan RCMP warn public of 'Emergency Scam'

Fort Saskatchewan RCMP are advising the public that there has been an increase in the number of "Emergency Scams" reported to the Detachment this month. These scams are referred to as Emergency Scams, or sometimes "Grandparent" or "Grandchild" scams.

These scams often involve a phone call being placed to the victim claiming a loved one is in trouble with the courts or law enforcement and a payment is needed to help them. The suspects will often pretend to be a police officer, judge, or family member. Suspects will usually ask for cash, however more recently they have been asking for payment by Bitcoin.

Fort Saskatchewan RCMP want to remind citizens of the following:

- Bail is always paid in person at a courthouse or correctional centre.
- Never send money to anyone you

don't know.

- If a person claims to be a police officer or judge, call that police service or court house directly to confirm the situation – police and courts will never ask for any form of payment.

- Never give out personal information over the phone or online to someone you don't know – the police or courts will not ask for personal information over the phone.

Should you have fallen victim to this or any other scam, please contact the Fort Saskatchewan RCMP at 780-997-700, or your local RCMP, as well as the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre (www.antifraudcentre-centreantifraude.ca or 1-888-495-8501).

To report crime online, or for access to RCMP news and information, download the Alberta RCMP app through Apple or Google Play.

9613 100 Street,
Morinville, AB T8R 1L9
County Centre Office
Ph: 780-939-4321
Toll Free: 1-866-939-9303
Emergency After Hours:
780-939-4321

January Meetings and Important Dates

Meeting schedule is subject to change. Members of the public are welcome to observe or listen in. For teleconference details and links to the livestream, click on the meetings notice in the following locations:

Council Meetings: SturgeonCounty.ca/CouncilMeetings
Board and Committee Meetings: SturgeonCounty.ca/Boards
Public Hearings: SturgeonCounty.ca/PublicNotices

Holiday Closure	Jan. 1	Closed
Subdivision and Development Appeal Board	Jan. 9	2:00 PM
Calahoo Villeneuve Sand & Gravel Advisory Committee	Jan. 15	9:00 AM
Regular Council followed by Committee of the Whole	Jan. 16	9:00 AM
Agricultural Service Board	Jan. 17	9:00 AM
Governance and Council Services Committee	Jan. 18	1:30 PM
Winterfest	Jan. 19	3:00 PM
Subdivision and Development Appeal Board	Jan. 23	2:00 PM
Regular Council followed by Committee of the Whole	Jan. 30	9:00 AM

WINTER/ SPRING PROGRAMS REGISTRATION OPEN

Register Online at SturgeonCounty.ca/PROGRAMS

Free Family Fun!

WINTERFEST

2024

JANUARY 19 - Cardiff Park

Celebrate the Season!

Follow us!

@sturgeoncounty

**We wish you a very MERRY CHRISTMAS
And a HAPPY & PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR!**



We wish you a very
Merry Christmas
&
HAPPY NEW YEAR!



Pepper's Petro Canada
19338 HIGHWAY 28,
WASKATENAU
Alberta, T0A 3P0

Merry Christmas



Raymond Hoetmer
780-719-2241

Austin Hoetmer
780-221-2842

From The Hoetmer Team

THROUGH THE EYES OF A CHILD

My mom decorated my room up. I don't know how to decorate my room. My mom took out some trees and decorated. The huge one is not done. We are waiting for Daddy. We open presents on Christmas morning. We see what's in the presents, but we have to know which one is ours. We go celebrate somewhere and we check what's in our socks. I spend time with my mom, dad, brother, my two dogs and me! I like to hang out with myself. Avery Racine, Kindergarten, Legal Public School

Me and Mom decorate the Christmas tree. There are presents under the tree. My cats keep ripping them. On Christmas Eve we go outside after dark. We go to the gazebo and skate park and then relax at home. I have to wait on Christmas in December to open presents. Austin Holmes, Kindergarten, Legal Public School

May this Christmas season bring you closer to all those that you treasure in your heart.

HAVE A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A Happy New Year!



Thorhild Central School



The Council and Staff of the
Town of Gibbons
Wish you and your family:
Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year

Merry Christmas!



May your holidays sparkle with joy and laughter!




Happy Holidays


To our Member-Owners, thank you for making North Parkland Power Co-op a sustainable, member-owned and locally operated, utility.



member owned. member driven.

Merry Christmas to our Schools, Families, and Communities!

"thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!"
Corinthians 9:15



Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools



From the Gibbons Law Office

Lorrie Domsky
Dale Osborne
Darren Moroz
Jennifer Tchir

780-923-3446

Huletide Greetings

STRAIGHT FROM THE HEARTH
OUR WARMEST WISHES TO YOU AND
YOURS THIS HOLIDAY SEASON.

Coronado Gas Co-op Ltd
P.O. Box 960, GIBBONS, AB T0A 1N0
780-942-2786

Arlene's Salon

MERRY Christmas
And Happy New Year



MERRY Christmas

Connelly-McKinley Funeral Homes

May the true spirit of Christmas shine in your heart and light your path.

St. Albert Funeral Home
9 Muir Drive • 24 Hours 780-458-2222 • www.conelly-mckinley.com

Wishing Our Neighbors All the Joys of the Season

Hope it's merry, bright and just right!

Thank you for being such great customers and friends. We really appreciate your support, and we look forward to serving you again soon in the New Year.

ANDRUCHOW AUCTIONS LTD.
Dennis Andruchow - Ph: 780-456-1210 - Edmonton
Licensed & bonded since 1974
Website: www.andruchowauctions.ca

Merry Christmas from Morinville Fish & Game

We would like to thank all of our Volunteers & Sponsors of 2023. Best Wishes to all in 2024!

Saturday April 20, 2024 - BRAG NITE will be held at the MLC

Merry CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR

Homeland Housing
Better Housing, Better Living

(780) 939-5116
10021 - 101st Morinville, AB, T8R 1R9
www.homelandhousing.ca

**We wish you a very MERRY CHRISTMAS
And a HAPPY & PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR!**

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Sending you and your loved ones heartfelt wishes for a wonderful Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

BLUE LINE ICS
Your Heating & Air Conditioning Expert

Carrier C: 780 983 4328 • P: 780 942 4310

MERRY CHRISTMAS

SEASON'S GREETINGS FROM
Redwater Physical Therapy & Massage Clinic
redwaterphysio.com



**The Catholic Communities
of Our Lady of the Angels
Parish
Christmas Masses
2023**

**4th Sunday of Advent,
Saturday, Dec. 23**
St. Clare, Redwater: 6:00pm
Sacred Heart, Gibbons: 8:00pm
O.L.A., Fort Sask.: 5:15pm
and 8:00pm

**Christmas Eve,
Sunday, Dec. 24**
St. Clare, Redwater: 6:00pm
Sacred Heart, Gibbons: 8:00pm
O.L.A., Fort Sask.: 4:30pm, 8:00pm
and 12:00(midnight)

**Christmas Day,
Monday, Dec. 25**
O.L.A., Fort Sask.: 10:00am

**Holy Family,
Saturday, Dec. 30**
Sacred Heart, Gibbons: 6:00pm
O.L.A. Fort Sask.: 5:15pm, 8:00pm

**New Year's Eve., Mother of God,
Sunday, Dec. 31**
St. Clare, Redwater: 7:00pm
O.L.A., Fort Sask.: 5:15pm, 8:00pm

**New Year's Day, Mother of God,
Monday, Jan. 1, 2024**
Sacred Heart, Gibbons: 11:00am
O.L.A., Fort Sask.: 10:00am

**HAPPY
Holidays**

May the spirit of the season bring you light, love, and joy.

**FROM MAYOR, COUNCIL
& TOWN STAFF**

HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSURES
Closed Dec. 25 - December 30 and
Jan. 1st
Regular office hours will resume
January 2, 2023

If you require assistance during this time please check out our website
redwater.ca

**TOWN OF
Redwater**

*Season's
Greetings*
from
ATB
BON ACCORD

Merry Christmas

ALFREDO'S PLUMBING AND GASFITTING Inc. 780-964-5079

Merry Christmas

Here's hoping your holiday season is a whole lot of merry and bright!

May your Christmas and the New Year deliver an abundance of health, happiness and good fortune to you and the ones you love.

**Rick's
Oilfield Hauling**

4606 - 51 Avenue, E
P.O. Box 979,
Redwater, AB T0A 2W0
BUS: **780-942-2932**



**Warmest
Wishes**

Putnam Law LLP would like to thank its customers for their business and wish everyone a happy and healthy 2024.

**PUTNAM LAW
LLP**
Your neighbour Your lawyer

780-939-2001
www.putnamlawllp.ca

**We wish you a very MERRY CHRISTMAS
And a HAPPY & PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR!**

Season's greetings

Wishing you all the best in the holiday season.

From your Electrical & Instrumentation Specialists at:



Redwater
780-942-2225

THROUGH THE EYES OF A CHILD

This is my favorite thing to do with my family: first, eat dinner. My favorite is pumpkin cream pie and gingerbread cookies. Then, open presents on Christmas morning. We watch a movie with popcorn. My favorite is the elf movie, but I never watched it. I love

to hang out with my auntie at Christmas time. Hailey Lonsdale, Kindergarten, Legal Public School

My family celebrates Christmas by putting up a real tree. I have had a star since I was

one. The tree was nine feet tall! We have a family present on Christmas Eve. Hopefully, it is a Nintendo Switch! My family normally has perogies and mashed potatoes. I know what present I'm getting this year. Hudson Lonsdale, Grade 3, Legal Public School



**EVERYTHING'S SET...
FOR A BEAUTIFUL SEASON!!**

*The tree is trimmed ...
The gifts are wrapped ...
The lights are lit ...
And now our best wishes are on the way!
Merry Christmas and many thanks.*



LTD
OILFIELD SERVICES INC.
Redwater, AB 780-942-4484



The Ty-Wire Electric Ltd. Family would like to wish Everyone a very Merry Christmas and safe Happy New Year!

Thank you to our Patrons and other local businesses for all your support in the last year! We look forward to continuing to service all of your Electrical needs in The New Year! We will be closed from December 22nd, 2023 until January 2nd, 2024 for regular service calls.

"Always on call for Electrical Emergencies".



DEVON & MORINVILLE
MINI STORAGE SELF STORAGE & RV STORAGE

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Devon Self Storage
3 Exploration Drive
Devon, AB | T9G 1Z5
Phone: 780-218-5352

Morinville Self & RV Storage
9803 90 Avenue
Morinville, AB | T8R 1K7
Phone: 780-218-5362

HAPPY
Holidays





LifeintheHeartland.com

Smile!
It's Christmas!

Warm wishes to everyone who helped make our year something to celebrate!

May your holiday season and New Year be everything you hope for.



Dr. Darren Romanowski & Dr. Dave Yuen
General Dentists
10407 - 100 Avenue • Morinville
PHONE 780-939-1288
FOR APPOINTMENTS
AFTER HOURS CALL 780-916-5845
Family and Cosmetic Dentistry
We are proud to serve the community & welcome all new patients, emergencies & referrals.



Warmest Greetings of this Festive Season
 & Best Wishes for Happiness in the
 New Year!



MERRY
Christmas

DANE LLOYD MP
 STURGEON RIVER—PARKLAND

DANE.LLOYD@PARL.GC.CA
 DANELLOYD.CA • 780-823-2050

We wish everyone
 a healthy and prosperous
 New Year!

Phone: 780-998-1635
 10103-100 ave Fort Saskatchewan

SINGER We service all brands of sewing machines and sergers. We are an authorized Singer and Pfaff dealer. **PFAFF**

THROUGH THE EYES OF A CHILD

My best Christmas was about three years ago. The Christmas tree was half filled with all our presents. I got everything on my list. I had a big fire outside with all the wrapping paper. I had a feast which had mashed potatoes, carrots, drumsticks, turkey, stew and cookies. I went snowboarding in the mountains.
Raymond Lawson, Grade 4, Legal Public School

My family celebrates Christmas by going to my grandma's. We make Christmas cookies and nuts and bolts. My great-grandma has a secret recipe for sugar cookies. On Christmas morning, we have "cheese stuff" - melted orange cheese on toast! Sometimes we go to Grandma's in Camrose or my Oma and Opa's in B.C.
Zelena Breederland, Grade 4, Legal Public School

I came home before my brothers and my mom, and I decorated the Christmas tree. I lean my stocking on a wrapped present. My mom bought presents for me and my brothers. We baked cookies and gingerbread men. We had waffles for breakfast and opened presents. We played

board games. I love Monopoly!
Damian Lawson, Grade 1, Legal Public School

Mom reads stories on Christmas Eve. The best part about Christmas time is presents! We open presents on Christmas morning. I have a stocking. We go to our grandma's for a big supper. We have turkey, potatoes, cheese, and pickles. And ice cream for dessert.
Aliza Breederland, Grade 2, Legal Public School

At Christmas, I usually visit at Boyle. My big Baba, my mom, friends and family all help bake. I wake up, bust my door, and run to open presents! Last year, I got a laptop and a new stick. My Elf on a Shelf was wrapped in a burrito. I left Oreos for Santa.
Spencer Durdle, Grade 3, Legal Public School

My family gets ready for Christmas by decorating the tree. I have a little monkey ornament from when I was born. My grandma and I are going to bake all Christmas Eve. We make caramel walnut cookies that snap when you bite them.
Desmond Hunting, Grade 3, Legal Public School

Museum Attendant Donna Garrett talks to Kindergarten Students From École Morinville Public School about the history of Morinville and the surrounding area during a school visit on Wednesday, December 7. The Musée Morinville Museum hosts many touring school groups each year.
 - Stephen Dafoe Photo



SCHOOL NEWS

Guthrie School



We had a fantastic monthly assembly, filled with recognition and positive accomplishments. Our kids worked hard collecting food for The Padre's Pantry. We were pleased to have Padre Davis on hand to accept all the food donations the kids brought in. The excitement and thrill experienced by the kids as they witnessed Padre Davis holding on to as many donations as possible made the assembly a memorable

one for sure! We also recognized our perseverance nominees and highlighted a patroller of the month. Acknowledging and appreciating the efforts, dedication, and positive contributions of our students is a great way to foster supportive and encouraging school community. Congratulations to the perseverance nominees and the patroller of the month. Keep up the fantastic work Guthrie Gators!

Namao School

Jon (and Keith the red-tailed hawk) from Beaverhill Bird Observatory came in to host an educational presentation all about birds! The Grade 3's and 9's learned all about research, conservation, climate change and more during their session.



Sturgeon Composite High School

Local first responders and students participated in Sturgeon Composite's second annual first responders dodgeball tournament and fundraiser on December 12, 2023. Six teams vied for the win and for the 2nd year in a row the win went to the STINGERS. SCHS is proud to partner with our community to support the Zebra Centre.

The Zebra Center is a very helpful charity who work with youth in our area and are dedicated to helping kids. We collected \$403.45 in

cash donations and some toys and all went to the Zebra Center. Thank you to our parent committee for donating funds for the pancake lunch they provide to the school and for volunteering their time to making the pancakes and thank you to our parents, students, staff and first responders for bringing joy and support to our community.

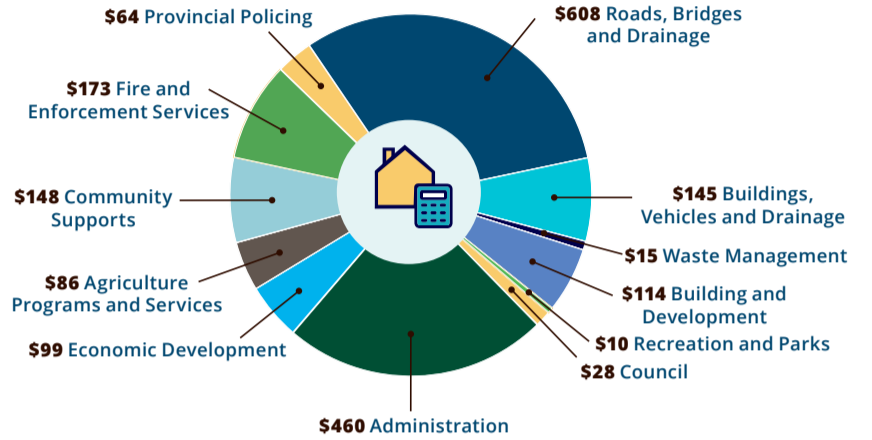


Budget 2024 Building Vital Connections

Where Your Taxes Go

Based on a \$500,000 residential home with municipal property taxes of \$1,950

If a typical home is assessed at \$500,000, the average municipal property tax bill would be about \$1,950 in 2024. Here is a breakdown of where that money goes.



How the Budget Impacts You

Proposed municipal tax rate increase
2.13%



Homeowners
\$41

more in municipal taxes
A homeowner with a \$500,000 home will pay \$41 more in municipal taxes in 2024.



Business owners
\$229

more in municipal taxes
The owner of a business valued at \$1 million will pay \$229 more in municipal taxes in 2024.

This amount doesn't include taxes the County needs to collect on behalf of the province, which are determined in the spring.

Council is prioritizing utility rate affordability



The average utility customer will
save \$200 per year
for water and wastewater services

Key Investments for 2024



Capital Budget
\$48.9 million



Total 2024 budget
\$135.7 million



Operating Budget
\$86.8 million

- ✓ \$1.8+ million to **build, maintain and grow our parks, trails, and natural green spaces.**
- ✓ \$3.1 million to **improve utility infrastructure**, including \$1.6 million for water and \$1.5 million for wastewater services.
- ✓ \$41,000 for **enhanced cyber security insurance** to mitigate financial impacts of an incident.
- ✓ \$1.8 million to **construct a roundabout** at Sturgeon Road and Range Road 250.
- ✓ \$45,000 for a **communications audit**, to ensure we communicate effectively with residents.
- ✓ \$1.6 million for 14.3 **full-time positions** to help the County serve residents better. Positions include a social worker, development compliance officer, animal control officer and full-time firefighters.
- ✓ \$4 million to **reduce debt**, which results in significant savings by not having to pay interest.
- ✓ \$500,000 **into reserves** to fund snow removal, gravel road improvements and potential equipment needs.
- ✓ \$1.5 million is allocated toward capital investments for **major initiatives in the Sturgeon County portion of Alberta's Industrial Heartland** to support and attract long-term growth. These investments support a stronger tax base for the community, competitive tax rates and long-term financial sustainability.

Comments?

Feedback from residents and businesses is an important part of the Budget process.

Phone: 780-939-4321
Toll free: 1-866-939-9303
Email: budget@SturgeonCounty.ca
SturgeonCounty.ca/Budget

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

St. Jean Baptiste Church designs unveiled, construction set to begin May 2024

but one that is traditional in its appearance, character, and spirit.

"It is very reminiscent of what it had been initially, which was the desire to begin with," Filipowicz said. "From that perspective, the modern part of it more applies to the techniques and materials we are using, which are quite different from the original design. Otherwise, aesthetically, it is reminiscent in many aspects to what the original church was."

The architects designed the new church in two phases: the naive or church proper and a welcome centre, an additional section for overflow and functions. Costs versus available funding will determine if both get built for 2025 or the church alone gets built.

At full build-out, the facility will be 8,500 square feet, 400 square feet smaller than the original church. However, there will be some notable differences in scale and size. Seating capacity in the naive is approximately 292 seats, 300 fewer than the 600 in the original church. When built, overflow in the welcoming centre would add another 200 seats to the church.

A folding petition separating the naive from the welcoming centre would give the church additional capacity and serve as a place to hold events, including wedding and funeral receptions and social functions. The phase two welcoming centre would also have a kitchen to support the various functions.

The Bells Will Ring Again

Building Committee Chair Ron Cust said the bells will ring from St. Jean Baptiste Church and be heard throughout town as they once were. He is pleased with the current design.

"What we really have is we're building a new church, but we are using the past," Cust said, adding the architects had brought nine designs for the project over time, which did not quite meet the mark. "Then he came with the one that is more what you see now, and we said, 'Now, you've got it!' It's modern. The bells are open. We're getting antique bells from Quebec that are going to be shipped here to replicate the [original] bells.

Another difference between the former and new church is in the steeple that will house those bells. The



Building Committee Chair Ron Cust and Start Architects Principal Christopher Filipowicz display the floor plan for the naive of St. Jean Baptiste Church during an open house at St. Kateri Tekakwitha Academy on Thursday, November 30. - Stephen Dajoe Photo



From left: Building Committee Chair Ron Cust, Project Manager Randy Darr, and Start Architects Principal Christopher Filipowicz share a moment of joy at information regarding the new designs. - Stephen Dajoe Photo

former steeple, which the church repaired in a significant renovation project a few years before the church's destruction, stood at 101 feet. The new steeple tower will be 75 feet high but not connected to the church.

Cust said this is by design. "The bell tower has been separated from the church by an amount so that we can totally ring them. They'll ring like the old ones."

The Building Committee Chair went on to say that while the church loses some seating in the naive, they will, on completion, gain other things. "We've got a meeting area that holds 30 people. We've got a children's liturgy area. And we have an area dedicated to the choir and a chapel," Cust said, noting he was happy to receive additional feedback from those who were both happy and unhappy with the design at the open house.

"The Parishioners have had presentations over the last year showing various aspects of the design as it evolved. In our survey, and along the way, they told us what they wanted, and we've complied with most of that. They received the

unveiling of a very close to final concept on Thursday night."

What remains to be determined is whether the Parish will build the welcoming centre now or later. The project was designed as two phases to avoid being caught by surprise and ensure that whatever is constructed now can be sustained now and into the future with existing parishioners. Whatever is built, one of the critical things for those involved is that the bells of St. Jean Baptiste Church will ring again, and those coming home to Morinville will again see the steeple towering above the horizon.

"We're designing it so the lights come up through the steeple. You're going to see it for miles around again," Cust said. "And you're going to hear the bells. They're not going to be clanging. They're going to be ringing."

Now that the designs are nearing final completion, the project will go out to tender this winter with an anticipated May 2024 start.

Cust said they are still raising additional funds, and those interested can contact him at 587-783-5134.

HOROSCOPE

ARIES

(March 21 - April 20)



People may not be available this week to get together, and that is perfectly fine by you, Aries. Solitude is just what you can use right now after a busy stretch.

TAURUS

(April 21 - May 21)



Taurus, expect a delay or two this week as those who you are expecting simply keep you waiting and it's very frustrating. This will be a lesson in patience for now.

GEMINI

(May 22 - June 21)



Gemini, you may envision a plan in your mind, but now it is up to you to move it from your thoughts and into the reality of coming to fruition. It will take a little time.

CANCER

(June 22 - July 22)



Cancer, give yourself some time to have fun and play around. The inner child in you needs the opportunity to explore and try new things. You'll have plenty of chances.

LEO

(July 23 - August 23)



This week may bring many different feelings to the surface, Leo. You may not be ready to explore all of your deep emotions just yet, but you can start by being honest with others.

VIRGO

(August 24 - September 22)



Virgo, empathy may inundate you this week, as you are in tune with the feelings of many different people. Others will appreciate your thoughtfulness in the days to come.

LIBRA

(September 23 - October 23)



You have many chores on your list but things keep pulling you in different directions, Libra. If you can't focus on something difficult, try a creative pursuit.

SCORPIO

(October 24 - November 22)



Scorpio, you may find if you look ahead that there are really no pressing matters on your calendar. This gives you the perfect opportunity to have an outing and enjoy yourself.

SAGITTARIUS

(Nov. 23 - Dec. 21)



Past memories could put you in a funk, Sagittarius. Rather than dwell on what may have happened, think about the future in your control.

CAPRICORN

(Dec. 22 - Jan. 20)



Focus your energy on ideas this week, Capricorn. You might not be changing the world, but each innovation you think up will have a positive impact.

AQUARIUS

(January 21 - February 18)



Aquarius, do not let moments of self-doubt derail you. Now more than ever, you need to believe in yourself. Think of this as a test that you can ace.

PISCES

(February 19 - March 20)



Pisces, if you do not like what you are or where you are going right now, you have an opportunity to make any changes you want. This may be the ultimate resolution.

We will not be publishing a paper on December 27. Happy Holidays!

CONTACT *The Free Press*

FOR:

- ADVERTISING
- NEWS
- SUBMISSIONS
- FLYER INSERTS
- NEWS TIPS

CONTACTUS

For advertising contact 780-222-2016 or email morinvillepress@gmail.com

**SMALL ADS
BIG REACH**

Classified Word Ads require Payment with Order. Low cost - high circulation. Your ad will also run free in the Redwater Review. Up to 25 words: \$15.00 per week, GST included. Additional words: 50c/each. Deadline: Thursday 2:00 p.m. Phone 780-222-2016 E-mail: morinvillepress@gmail.com.



Weekly Special All Christmas Items 1/2 Price
Closed Dec 23 - 27

**NOREEN & FRIENDS
ATTIC & COFFEE HOUSE**

COFFEE, JUICE, WATER & PASTRIES **all \$2.50**
 DOLLAR STORE **nothing over \$1.00**

MONDAY - FRIDAY 10AM TO 6PM. SATURDAY 11AM TO 3PM
 SUNDAYS CLOSED

Stop in anytime for a visit, coffee or just to look around. You'll always be welcomed!!
FROM NUTS & BOLTS (TOOLS) TO CRAFTS!

Now renting storage space at Noreen & Friends Attic, 2nd location 4712-50ave Redwater. Also great for classes, courses, conferences, meetings ect. Inquire with Noreen

4919-49 ST REDWATER • 780-246-7633

**Your career ad at
www.morinvillepress.com**

BROAD REACH at an AFFORDABLE PRICE

Advertise Province-wide \$799
with a combined circulation of over 650,000 for only... plus GST

Ask about the **Value Ad Network**

Alberta Weekly Newspapers Association
 toll free 1-800-282-6903 x225
 email classifieds@awna.com
 or visit your community newspaper

SHOE REPAIR SHOP FOR SALE

Very Busy Shoe Repair Shop in Spruce Grove, AB. Specializing in all Safety, Work and Cowboy Boots.

- » Must see to believe, how busy this shop actually is.
- » Will teach, coach and advise shoe repair business.
- » Possibility to develop multiple Shoe Repair Shops.

Call George at **780.819.3777** to discuss potential.

DEBT SOLUTIONS

**780-424-9944
1-800-463-3328**

Debt/Credit Counselling
 Creditor Negotiations
 Bankruptcy Alternatives
 Debt Consolidation
 Consumer Proposals
 Bankruptcy Protection

**Personal and Business
FREE Consultation**

www.DEBTFREE.ca

First Edmonton Place, Suite 410,
 10665 Jasper Ave.

YOUR AD HERE!

Bring more shoppers to your door with locally focused advertising!

Call Shauna at 780-222-2016 or email morinvillepress@gmail.com

Aviation
BLANKET THE PROVINCE with a classified ad. Only \$269/wk (based on 25 words or less). Reach almost 90 weekly newspapers. Call NOW for details. 1-800-282-6903 Ext 225; www.awna.com.

Buildings For Sale
INTEGRITY POST FRAME BUILDINGS since 2008 BUILT WITH CONCRETE POSTS. Barns, Shops, Riding Arenas, Machine Sheds and more, sales@integritybuilt.com 1-866-974-7678 www.integritybuilt.com.

Career Training
GET YOUR MESSAGE SEEN ACROSS Alberta. The Blanket Classifieds or Value Ads reach over 600,000 Alberta readers weekly. Two options starting at \$269 or \$799 to get your message out! Business changes, hiring, items for sale, cancellations, tenders, etc. People are increasingly staying home and rely on their local newspapers for information. KEEP people in the loop with our 90 Weekly Community Newspapers. Call THIS NEWSPAPER now or email classifieds@awna.com for details. 1-800-282-6903, 780-434-8746 X225. www.awna.com.

Coming Events
FIREARMS WANTED FOR OUR 2023 AUCTION PROGRAM: Rifles, Shotguns, Handguns, Antiques, Militaria, Collections, Estates, Single Items. For Auction, or Possible Purchase: Toll-Free 1-800-694-2609, Email Us at

sales@switzersauction.com or Visit Us @ www.switzersauction.com.

Feed and Seed
ALBERTA FEED GRAIN: Buying Oats, Barley, Wheat, Canola, Peas, Screenings, Mixed Grains. Dry, Wet, Heated, or Spring Thresh. Prompt Payment. In House Trucks, In House Excreta Cleaning. Vac Rental. 1-888-483-8789.

WE BUY DAMAGED GRAIN - Heated, Mixed, Tough, Light, Bugs, Spring Thrashed... Barley, Wheat, Oats, Peas, Flax, Canola. "On Farm Pickup". Westcan Feed & Grain 1-877-250-5252.

Health
HIP/KNEE REPLACEMENT. Other medical conditions causing TROUBLE WALKING or DRESSING? The Disability Tax Credit allows for \$3,000 yearly tax credit and \$30,000 lump sum refund. Take advantage of this offer. Apply NOW; quickest

refund Nationwide: Expert help. 1-844-453-5372.

Services
CRIMINAL RECORD? Why suffer employment/licensing loss? Travel/business opportunities? Be embarrassed? Think: Criminal Pardon. US entry waiver. Record purge. File destruction. Free consultation. 1-800-347-2540. www.accesslegalmjf.com.

Wanted
CASH PAID FOR GOLD, SILVER & PLATINUM! Buying coins, collections, 999 bullion, bars, ingots, jewelry, nuggets, sterling, old money. PURCHASING ENTIRE COIN COLLECTIONS! Call Todd 1-250-864-3521.

SMALL FAMILY FARM looking for cultivated farmland or hayland in the Thorhild area for 2024. Competitive rates, timely payment & flexible terms. 780-689-6755.



Sturgeon Memorial Inc
 Funeral Home & Crematorium

Direct Cremation \$1180 + GST*
 Includes Transfer to funeral home within 50 KM, cremation tray, plastic urn, 12 death certificates, Executor's checklist

Traditional Burial \$2995 + GST* +Casket
 *Price subject to change

Pre~planning~ International Shipping~ AISH Accepted

Funeral Director on call 24 hours a day
 In office by appointment

780-921-3900
 5016 - 47 Avenue, Bon Accord, AB
 smemorial.ca

BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL DIRECTORY

The Free Press

CAN-DALE VACUUM SERVICES



Box 368,
Thorhill, AB
T0A 3J0

DALE GABBEY
780-398-3519

ALFREDO'S
plumbing & gasfitting inc

780-964-3079 or 780-942-3245
alfredosplumbingandgas@gmail.com

Service, Reno's, New Housing, In-Floor Heating,
Drain Cleaning, Furnace and Hot Water Tank Replacement

Box 254, Redwater AB T0A-2W0

We accept  

Rene's Vacuum Service Inc.



- Vacuum Trucks
- Septic Tanks / Holding Tanks
- Sumps / Car Washes / Pits
- Hydro-Vac Excavation
- Portable Toilet Rental
- Grease Traps
- Steam / Pressure Washer

Sturgeon county, Westlock County, St. Albert & area
780-961-3064

www.rensvacuum.com | office@rensvacuum.com

MORINVILLE SELF STORAGE

780-939-6262
780-218-5362

Emergency #: 780-218-5362

4 Sizes, Paved to Units, Fenced Compound,
Electronic Gate: 7 Day Access, 7 A.M. - 9 P.M.
Residential Secured On Site
RV Parking. Office Hours: Mon. - Sat. 9 A.M. - 5 P.M.
9803 - 90 Ave. Morinville Business Park
e-mail: jina@alberta-selfstorage.ca
Website: www.alberta-ministorage.ca

DDC

SAND + GRAVEL + CONCRETE
A Division of Dale Crosswell Construction Co. Ltd.

• Crushed • Pitrun • Screened Sand • Washed Rock • Concrete

Office: 780-398-3568 PO Box 690
Gravel: 780-307-4654 Thorhill, AB
Concrete: 780-679-7722 T0A 3J0
info@ddcsandandgravel.ca
Visit us at: ddcsandandgravel.ca

LEWIS EXCAVATING & PUMP SERVICE LTD

Water • Sewer • Pump
Installations and Repairs
Septic Systems & Cisterns



Kendall
ph: 780.921.3005
cell: 780.915.9649

Basil
ph: 780.921.3738
cell: 780.886.1487

Serving our Community for over 40 years

 **Sarbecnat Plumbing & Heating** Jeff Lamarche

sarbecnat@yahoo.ca
www.sarbecnat.ca
Ph: (780) 918-6033

Service You Can Rely on 24/7 Every Time!

- Hot Water Tanks • Sinks
- Toilets • Renovations • Furnaces • Boilers

FREE ESTIMATES / AFFORDABLE PRICING

 **Robin Wood**
Excavating Contractor

Over 25 Years Experience To Serve You

- Water & Sewer
- Septic Tank, Cistem Replacement, Repair
- Design Sewer System
- Basement Digging
- Weeping Tile
- Demolition
- Site Preparation
- Site Reclamation
- Dug Outs, Trenching
- Road Building
- Sand & Gravel, Top Soil
- Compaction
- Building Approach
- Farm Work

Residential & Commercial
Ph: 780-961-4079 Cell: 780-206-0297
Email: robinwood68a@hotmail.com

STURGEON
PLUMBING & HEATING

STURGEONPLUMBING.CA

780.266.6887

- WATER TREATMENT
- GAS FITTING
- DRAIN CLEANING
- AND SO MUCH MORE!



DUNRITE EAVESTROUGHING LTD.

If you want it done right, call DunRite

TOP QUALITY 5" CONTINUOUS EAVES

OVER 100 COLOURS TO CHOOSE FROM
Aluminum Soffit & Fascia • Rain Barrels
Detailed Quotes • Owner Estimates & Installs
24 Hour Answering Service • Warrantied Service
Maintenance Free Gutter Clean Systems

EDMONTON & SURROUNDING AREAS
RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL
10% OFF WINTER WORK • SENIOR DISCOUNTS

780-265-3600

REDLAC
PUMP SERVICE 2019 INC.
"PROFESSIONAL SERVICE"

- Submersible Pumps • Jet Pumps • Sump Pumps
- Sewage Pumps • Pressure Tanks • Water Treatment
- R/O Systems • Well Inspections

DEALER OF GOULDS WATER SYSTEMS

TERRY BERGSTREISER Ph: (780) 939-4944
Cell: (780) 243-4032
E-mail: redlac2019@hotmail.com

Rose City Memorials

We have met the memorial needs of many families



Leah Hogg
Morinville Sales Rep.
780-915-5625

Joan Jolliffe
Westlock Sales Rep.
780-349-4355

IT'S A SIGN!



SOLD



Proudly serving clients in Edmonton and the Greater
Edmonton Area for over 30 years
www.cdnres.com / info@cdnres.com / 780-961-3500
Follow us on   For market updates and more

 **Buying or Selling ??**
*** Let a local & experienced person help you ***

Donna McHale, Realtor

Re/Max Real Estate
www.gibbons-remax.com
donna@gibbons-remax.com

780.923.3000 or 780.717.1723

DDC Concrete

READY MIX CONCRETE


info@DDCconcrete.ca

780-679-7722
780-398-3568

P.O. Box 690
Thorhill, AB
T0A 3J0

Schools, groups, and clubs
We would love to publish
your photos!

Submit to Shauna at
morinvillepress@gmail.com

 **Family & Cosmetic Dentistry**

Dr. Darren Romanowski & Dr. Dave Yuen General Dentists

Box 3010
10407 - 100 Ave.
Morinville, Alberta T8R 1S1

Office: 780-939-1288
Cell: 780-916-5845
Res: 780-921-3114

YOUR AD HERE!

CALL
780-222-2016