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COUNTRY CLIPPER **NuVision** **HARMON** **Husqvarna** **Brandt** **bühler** **Fleetguard**

Beaver County CAO provides yearly review of 2024 initiatives

Patricia Harcourt

Beaver County Council heard an overview of the county's economic outlook and finances in helping to determine budgetary considerations for the upcoming year.

Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) Kayleena Spiess said she was "pleased to report significant progress on the original 57 projects," at the end of the second year of a four-year corporate business plan (CBP).

Spiess said that 70 per cent of the projects were completed and another 21 per cent were still underway.

Spiess called the CBP "a living document" that adjusts to "the county's evolving needs."

Other such new priorities set for 2024 were set by council and are currently underway, she said, but are not completed at this time.

She called new budget software "a valuable tool," adding: "Looking ahead this software will allow us to seamlessly track and display year over year changes for our newly organized budgets."

Spiess said this would mark "a strong step

toward enhanced clarity and accountability in our financial management."

"The 2025 budget aligns closely with council's strategic outcomes and corporate goals," she said, "incorporating recently policy updates that guide administration in enhancing service delivery.

"Key additions include expanding resources in public works and agriculture services along with a focus on streamlining businesses processes," she explained.

She added: "One of our primary objectives next year is to gain a clearer understanding of the appropriate service levels needed for urban outlets, recognizing their unique requirements."

Spiess said the past year working with council achieved targets like overcoming challenges, creating efficiencies and expanding opportunities.

She said council provided "forward thinking support" and expressed gratitude to the public for their patience over the past year.

"Together we're building a strong enduring community," she stated.

Spiess listed her "top wins for 2-24," including

a new Human Resources Implementation Project, which she said enhanced HR processes that increased efficiencies and improved support for the county administrative team.

Progress has also been made in project management which "translated corporate goals into action, serving to add value to service delivery and keeping projects on track."

Also cited were advances made in the economic development sphere in regards to initiatives supporting business growth and community development.

Spiess' final "win" referred to public engagement citing "effective outreach...strengthening communication with residents."

However, a couple of challenges were also listed for 2024, including the county having to deal with the effects of ongoing inflation.

"(Inflation) continues to impact budgets, highlighting the need for the tax levy to keep pace with inflation," she said.

As well, "completing key projects aimed at improving overall service delivery remains a priority," she said.

MLA and Beaver Foundation officials pay festive visit to Holden Lodge



Beaver Foundation Manager Owen Ligard, Beaver Foundation Board Chair Gene Hrabec and Camrose MLA Jackie Lovley visited with residents of the Holden Lodge recently. "We enjoyed cake together and sang with the residents. Owen and Gene were good sports and wore the Santa hats I brought. The residents were entertained with the gesture," Lovley reported.

A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM BENNY THE BEAVER



Ho-ho-ho-hello there!
It's your good friend Benny the Beaver, here to wish you the happiest of holidays! This time of year, I love snuggling up by the fire with some of my favourite things - a pile of wood to nibble on, and a soft blanket to curl up with! As we gather with friends and family, I just wanted to remind you to take time to appreciate the little things – like the cozy warmth of a home, the twinkling lights, and the joy of spending time with loved ones. So grab a blanket, sip on some warm cocoa (or pond water, if that's more your thing), and enjoy this magical season. May your holidays be filled with joy, laughter, and lots of love.

*Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from
Beaver County Council, Staff,
and Benny the Beaver!*



BORSCHIW SOCIAL GUILD & PARISH

NEW YEAR'S EVE MASQUERADE

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31ST 2024
BORSCHIW HALL
\$60/TICKET
COCKTAILS 6:00 PM SUPPER 7:00 PM
DANCE TO FOLLOW

For more information or to purchase tickets contact:
Litania Sankey : 587-280-2357
Nick Bilyk: 780-603-8942
Email: borschiwsocialguild@gmail.com

SILENT AUCTION | CASH BAR
BUS SERVICE AVAILABLE

Claystone Waste Holiday Hours

December 25 & 26, and January 1
Administration office, all transfer stations, and landfill will be **CLOSED**.
There will be no waste collection pickups on these dates.

Residential Waste Collections

Collections scheduled for December 25 & 26 (Tofield, Holden, Rley) will be picked up December 27 & 30.
Collections scheduled for January 1 (Tofield) will be picked up along with Holden and Rley on January 2 & 3.

All of us at Claystone wish you the best this holiday season!

4TH ANNUAL

Holiday Decorating Contest!

It's back! Lets light up our County!
Full details can be found on our website under the Community menu.

MENTAL HEALTH AND THE HOLIDAYS

The holidays can be a time of celebration, but they may also bring difficulties to those dealing with mental health or addiction. Know that help is available 24/7. If you need support, don't hesitate to reach out:

Mental Health Helpline: 1-877-303-2642
Addiction Helpline: 1-866-332-2322
Kids Help Phone: 1-800-666-6868 or text CONNECT to 686868
Suicide Crisis Helpline: 988

There's always someone ready to listen and help. You're not alone.

Driveway Plowing Tips

Heads up, winter warriors! Here's a frosty plowing pro-tip: Keep the left side of your driveway clear. Why? So when the snow plows come rumbling by, they won't redecorate your driveway with a fresh coat of snow.



When plowing your driveway, please avoid pushing snow across the road and creating a large pile.

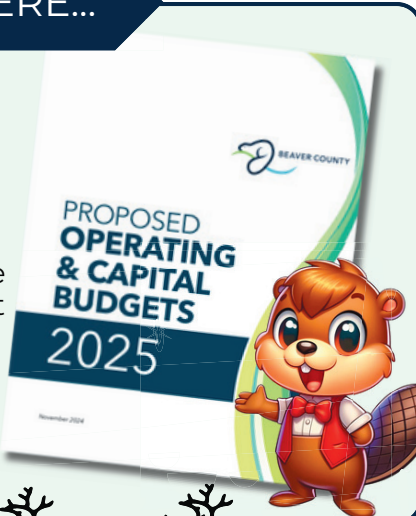


These piles can compact into solid ice, and if a snowplow hits one, it can cause the plow to jolt off course, posing a **serious safety risk** to the operator and other vehicles.

BUDGET SEASON IS HERE...

2025 Proposed Budget is now available for review! This budget outlines plans to support community priorities, enhance services, and maintain infrastructure while balancing fiscal responsibility. Council will be voting on the proposed budget at the December 18 Regular Council Meeting.

Find the document on the website under the **Government** menu > **Financials**



Mailing list

Get news, meeting highlights, the road construction schedule, the Chronicle, and more - direct to your inbox!

Website

Information on County programs and services can be found on our website, along with the latest news.



IMPORTANT DATES

December 18

- 9:30 AM - 12 PM - Governance and Priorities Committee Meeting
- 1 - 4:30 PM - Regular Council Meeting

December 25 - 27, and January 1

- Office Closed for Christmas, and New Years Day

January 15

- 9:30 AM - 12 PM - Governance and Priorities Committee Meeting
- 1 - 4:30 PM - Regular Council Meeting

WHATS HAPPENING IN OUR COMMUNITY

Book Club

Location: Ross Creek Community Hall, 531041 Rge Rd 191
Rural book club that meets the first Tuesday of each month. Meetings run from 7PM - 8PM, all ages welcome!

Tofield AA - Thursdays, 8 - 9 PM

Basement of Bardo Lutheran Church, 4737 57 Ave, Tofield.

Viking AA - Wednesdays, 8 PM, Zoom option also available.

Golden Valley Lutheran Church, 5327 56 Ave, Viking.

<https://area78aa.org/meetings/147-3>

Submit your event/s, meetings and/or gatherings to the events calendar on the website! Just head to the website, under the Explore menu click on County Region Events Calendar. We have partnered with Go East to share local events on our website!

DEVELOPMENT PERMITS

The following Development Applications have been APPROVED (except where otherwise noted) by the Development Authority under the provisions of Land Use Bylaw No. 98-801, subject to the right of appeal to the relevant appeal body - Subdivision and Development Appeal Board (SDAB) or Land and Property Rights Tribunal (LPRT).

APPEAL DEADLINE JANUARY 15, 2025

Appeal Body SDAB
Application No. 020020-24-D0079
Applicant JORGE HERNANDEZ
Landowner SAME
Location LOT 4, PLAN 762 1240 IN SW 08-50-20-W4
Development Discretionary Use - 24' x 24' Liquor Store (General Commercial Uses)

APPEAL DEADLINE JANUARY 15, 2025

Appeal Body SDAB
Application No. 020020-24-D0084
Applicant NATALIYA & STEPAN DIDUSENKO
Landowner SAME
Location LOT 9, BLOCK 1, PLAN 782 2987 IN SE 34-50-20-W4
Development Permitted Use with 800 ft² Variance from Maximum Floor Area, 11.87 ft Variance from Minimum East Side Yard Setback, and 1.97 ft Variance from Minimum Rear Yard Setback - 3200ft² 'As-Built' Shop (Buildings and Uses Accessory to Permitted Uses)

Any person wishing to appeal an application may do so by serving written notice on the prescribed form (stating reasons for the appeal) to the relevant appeal body. For information on how to appeal can be found on our website under **Services > Planning & Development > Appealing Planning Decisions**

Further information regarding the above decisions may be obtained from the County Office, Ryley, Alberta.



IMPORTANT TAX NOTICE

Due to the Canada Post strike, we are unable to send out tax statements. If you're unsure whether you owe taxes, please call our office at 780-663-3730 for assistance.

Reminder: The next penalty on outstanding taxes will be applied on January 16, 2025.
Thank you for your understanding!

Social media

Find us on Facebook, X (Twitter), Instagram, YouTube, and LinkedIn.



Landmark Paragon Theatre demolition finally underway



The contractor began demolishing the historic Paragon Theatre in Holden this week after several delays, including cold weather, that kept the work from being done over a period of weeks. Last week, workers were busy removing the asbestos insulation discovered after attempting to start the demo the week before that. However, now it is well and truly underway.

KARI JANZEN PHOTOS



OBITUARIES

Guy Noel Fortier

Nov. 1, 1945 to Dec. 15, 2024



Guy Fortier of Ryley, Alberta passed away on December 15, 2024 at his home. Left to mourn his passing; his son Noel (Kerry) and his daughter Bernadette (Chris).

His partner Rhonda and her children, Reg, Shawna and Nathan.

He is survived by his grandchildren, Shawn, Kayla, Nickolas, Ayrton, Daymon, Evan, Bryanne, Aedan, Blake, Wyatt, Kaelen, Winter and Dominic. Also, his great-grandchildren, Alex and Adrian. He is also survived by his brothers and sisters, Jean (Judy), Claude (Maggie), Joyce, Susanne, Jeanne (Don), Ron, Marie (Wes), Mikael (Judy) and his brother-in-law, Maurice Geroux as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

He is predeceased by his parents, Amedee and Irene, sisters, Denise and Fern and his brothers-in-law, Roland, Doug and Robert.

Guy (The Potato Man) was born in Saint-Cyprien, Quebec on November 1, 1945. Guy, his parents and brothers and sisters moved to Guy, Alberta when he was five.

Guy was a very busy man and he worked numerous jobs including 3 Star Construction and Twin City Equipment. He bought a gravel truck and backhoe in 1994 and he moved to Red Earth Creek to live and work until 2016 before settling in Ryley, Alberta.

Guy was diagnosed with cancer in 2019, it was then he began growing potatoes that were given to numerous neighbours and the foodbank in the area.

Donations to the Stollery Children's Hospital.

Cremation has taken place.

A celebration of his life will be held at a later date.

Weber Funeral Home
780-662-3959
www.weberfuneralhome.ca