Spirit *of the* **Peace** | *Issue No. 2* ■ ***May 2024***

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF

Spirit River

No. 133

The **Spirit** *of* **Our Soil: News, Nature,** *and* **Neighbours**

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All the details

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At Nardam Park

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ANNUAL MDSR 133 RATEPAYERS MEETING

THURSDAY JUNE 20TH 3PM–8PM

Brownlee Building, Municipal District of Spirit River No. 133
4202 50th Street Spirit River, AB

The annual MD ratepayers meeting will be held on Thursday June 20th, 2024, from 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Brownlee Building located behind the Municipal District of Spirit River's office.

This meeting provides an opportunity to meet and chat with Council members as well as MD staff.

Council and department heads will provide updates on projects within the MD and will be available to answer any questions. Local non-profit organizations are welcome to attend and set-up a table display.

Please contact the MD office to RSVP.
A barbeque supper will be provided.

(780) 864-3500 | mdsr133@mdspiritriver.ab.ca | www.mdspiritriver.ab.ca

Public Works Updates: **Gravel & Calcium Programs**

Gravel Program:

The summer gravel program consists of about 75 to 100 kilometers per year, plus or minus depending on the weather.

The gravel program commenced in early May and 18 kilometers have been completed to date.

Grimshaw Gravel is crushing approximately 35,000 tons of gravel from the MD gravel pit in Whitelaw and will be hauling it to the MD stockpile site at Dunvegan. They will also be completing reclamation work at the Whitelaw pit.

This summer we are planning to rebuild Range Road 62 from Highway 49 to Township Road 790. This rebuild will consist of cleaning ditches, pulling shoulders of the road, recompacting the road and replacing culverts as needed.

Gravel Pits

Calcium Program:

May 15th was the deadline for all calcium orders. Calcium has been ordered and we are now on a waiting list for application of the product.

The calcium program will commence as soon as the weather permits and when trucks are available to haul the product.

WE WANT TO REMIND THE PUBLIC THAT TAKING GRAVEL FROM MD ROADS OR GRAVEL PITS IS A CRIMINAL OFFENCE

Field Feed: Your **AG Report**

2024 Roadside Mowing Season

This year the MD of Spirit River will have ***two Tractors*** equipped with sidearms and mower decks starting on June 15th for the roadside mowing program.

They will be ***starting in the southwest corner*** of the MD ***and work their way North – East – then South again*** to complete a single pass on the entire MD.

Depending on weather conditions and time, we will then focus on the major Township roads to complete a full cut.

2024 Vegetation Management

This year the MD of Spirit River seasonal staff main focus will be on ***three Noxious Weed species – Yellow Toadflax***, ***Scentless Chamomile***, and ***Canada Thistle***.

Yellow Toadflax

Throughout the 2024 season we will be using ***Integrated Pest Management control methods*** such as ***mechanical mowing***, ***hand-pulling***, ***herbicide application***, ***seeding***, and ***weed inspections***.

Canada Thistle

Scentless Chamomile

Please drive with caution when driving by our roadside mowers and sprayers.

Our Weed inspectors will be out in full force so please be courteous to them and if you have any questions feel free to reach out to our Agricultural Fieldman.

Tax Notices **2024**

At the May 15th, 2024, Council meeting the Tax Rate Bylaw, 04-2024, was passed and brought into effect. A copy of this bylaw can be found on our website at **www.mdspiritriver.ab.ca** under Residents, select Taxes & Assessments.

Notice is hereby given that the assessment and tax notices for the 2024 taxation year will be mailed May 30th, 2024, and will be ***payable on or before September 16th, 2024***. All assessments and tax notices are deemed to have been received seven (7) days after mailing within Alberta and fourteen (14) days outside of the province.

Anyone wishing to object to the assessment value on any property in their name must, within 60 days of receiving this notice, lodge their complaint using only the prescribed "Assessment Review Board Complaint" form "#LGS1402 (2009/08)" to the Assessment Review Board Clerk care of Louise Gostick, Assistant Administrator of the Municipal District of Spirit River No. 133, Box 389, 4202 – 50th St. Spirit River, AB T0H 3G0.

The complaint ***must*** be accompanied by a ***$50 fee for Residential - 3 or fewer dwellings and Farmland***; ***$650 fee for Residential- 4 or more dwellings and Non-residential***, which will be refunded to the complainant if the complaint is successful. A copy of "Filing a Property Assessment Complaint and Preparing for Your Hearing" booklet as well as a "Guide to Property Assessment and Taxation in Alberta" can be obtained at the Municipal District of Spirit River No. 133 office or on our website.

Complaints must be submitted in writing on or before Tuesday August 6th, 2024.

If we do not have your correct mailing address on file, please contact our office at (780) 864-3500 to get a Land Titles Change of Address form. ***Failure to receive a tax notice is not considered sufficient reason for non-payment of property taxes.***

Taxes can be paid in ***cash***, ***cheque***, ***debit***, or ***on-line banking***, no credit cards will be accepted. For on-line banking please use your tax roll number as your account number. When searching for a payee please note we are listed as MD of Spirit River.

Rural Health Professions **Action Update**

"We are very fortunate to have been selected to host this *High School Skills event* through *RhPAP (Rural Health Professions Action Plan)* Our healthcare attraction and retention committee *CPARC*, submitted an application in the spring of 2023 that was successful. Much planning has gone into this event. The students (*Grades 9-12*) from ***SRRA***, ***Eaglesham*** and ***Savanna*** are having hands on experience with each station. The kids also had tours of hospital, clinic and EMS.

The concept behind the event was to *grow our own healthcare with local kids that will come back to our local hospital* to begin their careers. More and more healthcare training is being *offered in Grande Prairie* to help achieve this goal. A new rural medical doctor program was just announced to begin in Grande Prairie this fall I believe.

The students were all engaged and seemed to be enjoy the day.

If this type of volunteerism interests anyone, we need to *fill another Member at Large spot* on the committee."

Tammy Yaremko, **MAYOR**

Town of Spirit River
(780) 864-8900

High Speed Internet **What We Know**

You may have noticed workers installing cable in ditches throughout the region. ***Project Aurora*** is working in the area installing high speed fiber throughout the G5. While it is uncertain who will be able to access this fiber, we encourage all residents to contact the Auroura directly to put their name on the list.

Submit a NO Obligation Fiber Access Request (FAR) to ensure your home gets fiber optics lines built. Click Here.

NARDAM
Opens for Summer

Ready for Fun in the Sun!

Nardam Park has officially opened for the summer. The park features a ***stocked trout pond***, a ***fruit orchard*** as well as ***16 camp sites*** serviced with internet, electrical, water and a dumping station. The Park runs a profit every year, and we expect this year will be no different.

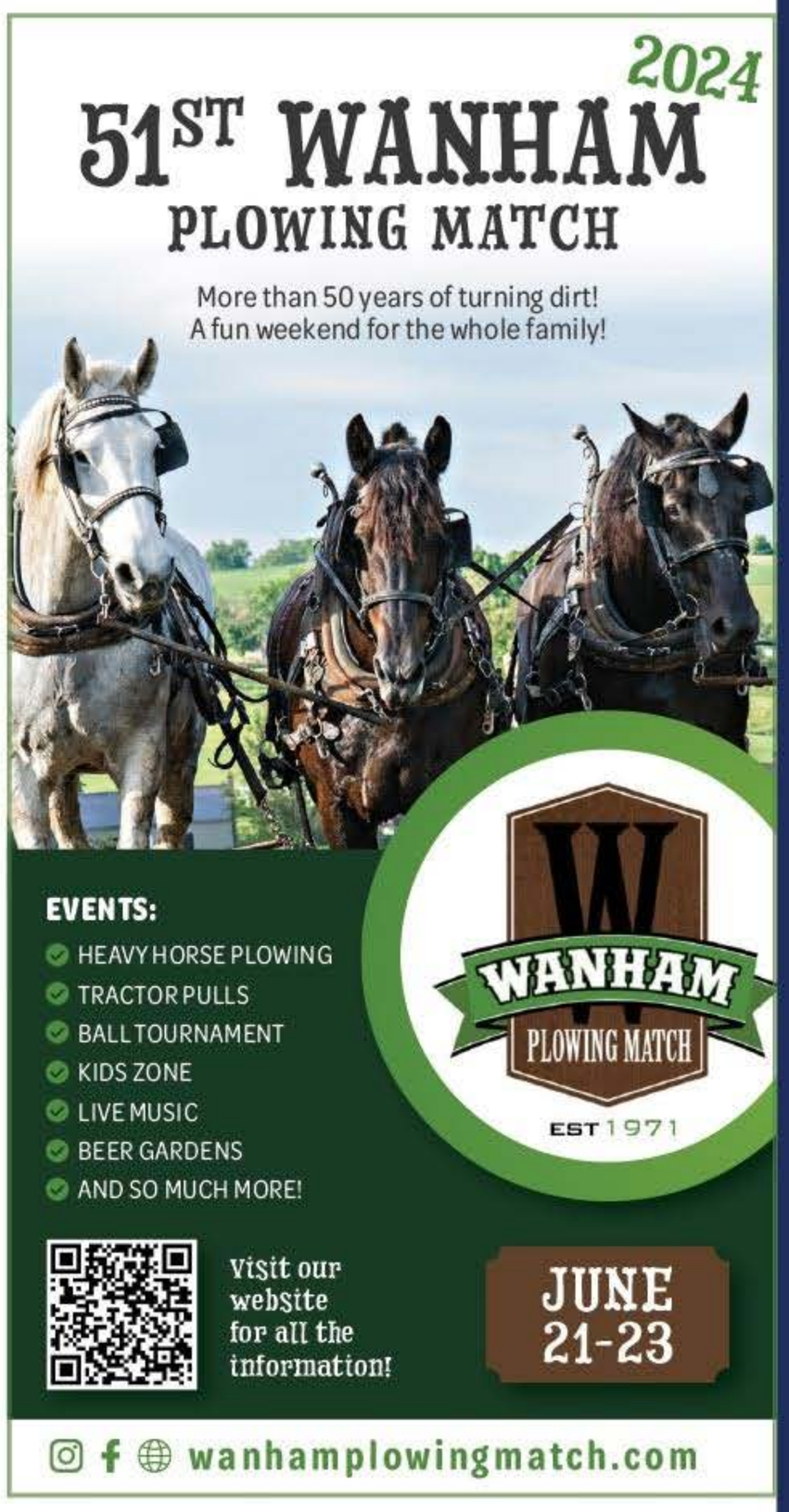
In addition to the campsites, the MD continually adds new features such as the ***fountains*** and a ***new dock***. The dock was a brilliant creation built by the MDs own ***talented public works staff***.

This year the MD will be hosting Canada Day celebrations on-site on June 30th.

Hope to see you there!

Nardam Dock

Fountains



Council Motions **MDSR 133** Council **May 15th**, 2024

The next Council Meeting will be held on June 5, 2024 at 9:00am in the Council Chambers located in the MD Office in Spirit River. Council meetings are open to the public and we welcome all to attend!

Some of the following motions were made at our Council Meeting on May 15th, 2024.

122.05.15.24

Moved by Councillor Stan Bzowy that the grant from the Department of Canadian Heritage in the amount of $1920.00, be used towards the Municipal District of Spirit River No.133 Canada Day Celebration event on Sunday June 30th, 2024, at Nardam Park.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

126.05.15.24

Moved by Deputy Reeve Nick vanRootselaar that the Municipal District of Spirit River No. 133 make a one-time monetary donation in the amount of $500.00 each to The Village of Rycroft Community Library and the Spirit River Library, for a total contribution of $1,000.00.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

127.05.15.24

Moved by Councillor Elaine Garrow that approval be given to continue with the road realignment affecting SL 4-78-6-W6 and SL 5-78-6-W6 which requires a subdivision process to consolidate parcels of East half SL 4-78-6-W6 and subdivide out the north parcel, utilizing the road right-of-way as the property boundary, at an additional cost of $5,500 plus subdivision application fees.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Anyone wishing to review more of our Council Meeting minutes can visit the MD of Spirit River #133 website under Council and Council Meeting Minutes.

Policing Expenditure:

Since 2021, municipalities have been required to pay the province of Alberta for policing services, which the Municipal District of Spirit River No. 133 had identified in the Tax Rate Bylaw as a provincial requisition.

The MD also included the funding as a requisition on the Tax and Assessment Notices.

Municipal Affairs has directed that since the Police Funding is not recognized in the Municipal Government Act (MGA) as a requisition, it can not be identified in the Tax Rate Bylaw nor on the Tax and Assessment Notices as such.

Therefore in 2023, Municipal District of Spirit River No. 133 tax payers will see the provincial police funding model invoice identified as an expenditure to the Province on their tax and Assessment Notices in the amount of $64,715.00.

Grass Fire in the MD:

Grass Fire in the right of way along Hwy 49 - April 23rd, 2024 – suspected cause of fire was a discarded cigarette butt

Municipal District *of*
Spirit River No. 133

Monday–Friday:
8:30 am–12:00 pm, 1:00 pm–4:30 pm
Closed weekends & statutory holidays

Street Address:
4202 50th Street
Spirit River, AB T0H 3G0

Mailing Address:
Box 389

(780) 864-3500
mdspiritriver.ab.ca

Missing an issue?
Need more info?
Grab your phone and take a look!

Meet & Mingle **Events & Stories Around Town**

Book Your Bus Trip Tour Now for Summer 2024!

Call the office at ***(780) 864-3500*** *to save a spot on the bus!*

Jun 28	**Beaverlodge** *Features:* World's Largest Beaver - South Peace Centennial Museum & Interpretive Centre - Beaverlodge Art & Cultural Centre - Euphemia McNaught Homestead Heritage Site
Jul 5	**Dawson Creek** *Features:* Dawson Creek Art Gallery - Walter Wright Pioneer Village - N.A.R Station Museum - Mile 0
Jul 12	**Girouxville & Falher** *Features:* Girouxville Museum - Stations of the Cross, Notre Dame de Lourdes - World's Largest Bee - Valley Bee Cafe - Smoky Gardens, Watino
Jul 18	**Dunvegan & Fairview** *Features:* Historical Dunvegan Provincial Park - Interpretive Centre - Mini-Golf - Market Gardens
Jul 26	**Grande Prairie** *Features:* Muskoseepi Park - Mini-golf & Ice Cream - Grande Prairie Museum & Heritage Village
Aug 2	**Peace River** *Features:* Ferry - Riverfront Park - 12 Foot Davis - Peace River Museum & Archives, Mackenzie Centre - Judah Hill, Sagitawa Lookout
Aug 9	**Cotillion & Moonshine Lake** *Features:* Cotillion Campground - Moonshine Lake - Blueberry Mountain Store
Aug 16	**Grimshaw** *Features:* Queen Elizabeth Provincial Park - Almyra's Fashions for Ladies - Raediance Florist & Gift Shop - Krooked House

Bus Fare: Age 16+ $25 Under 16 $5
Due upon registration.

Riders are responsible for all expenses over and above the bus fare.

Bus leaves the MD garage at 8:30 am to pick-up passengers at designated locations and will be returning between 3:30 and 4:00 pm

MD 133 SPIRIT RIVER 780 864-3500

Priority given to seniors and those who are mobility challenged

Central Peace Family & Community Support Services:

Serving the MD #133, Spirit River, Rycroft, and western Birch Hills County

We offer several programs to residents of the Central Peace. For those eligible, there is subsidized housekeeping services and a meals on wheels program, that support residents to maintain living independently in their homes. We also offer information referral resources, and free tax filing for simple, low-income tax situations. Further happenings recently include:

Seniors Week

Is the first week of June- watch for all the celebrations including: ***June 3rd*** in Centennial Hall starting at 10:00am with speaker, info booths, & day spa. *Lunch included.*

Summer Camp 2024

Registration will open ***June 10th***.
This year Camp Wanago will run for 8 weeks, starting July 2nd and running until August 23rd. For local children ages 5-11, the cost of registration is $15/day or $60/week. Located in Spirit River, camp runs from 8:45 am-3:15 pm Monday to Friday.

We are looking for youth ages 15 and over to apply for three (3) camp leader positions.

Get your resumes in by ***May 31st*** to be considered for this fun summer employment opportunity.

Community Kitchen

There are soups and meals!
Available to any seniors & individuals wanting support, at the FCSS office in Spirit River, the Birch Hills Seniors Centre in Wanham, the Food Bank ***and*** the Library, in Rycroft. Contact us for more information, including what soups and meals are available.

Get your community event in the monthly Community Connect!

Email **cphawc2.connect@outlook.com** by the 20th of the month before publication. You can also join the email list to receive the Community Connect by emailing **cphawc1@outlook.com**.

For further details and inquiries, please contact Julie at the ***FCSS office****:*

(780) 864-3500 press 2*, or ext. 206,* ***or email us*** *at* ***fcss@mdspiritriver.ab.ca***.

The *Rycroft Community Library*

MORE THAN JUST A LIBRARY

DID YOU KNOW?

Steve and Janet host ***50 Street Community Café***, May 24th and June 14th from 5:30 until 9ish. ***Come listen to some local talent!***

We have a ***Lending Library of Things***! From tools to toys, electronics, household items, outside toys – ***come check it out.***

We have weekly events,
Ladies Night *Tuesday 7:00–9:00 pm,*
Kids Kreate *Wednesday 3:30–5:30 pm,*
YOUth Time *Thusday 4:00–6:30 pm*

We offer ***Technology Simplified*** *May 22nd, 30th and June 5th 10:30 am–1:30 pm*

Our annual even ***Get Outside and Play "Kick Off to Summer"*** is a family fun event *June 26th 5:00 pm–8:00 pm*

Canada Day 2024

The MD is excited to report that we have received funding from the Federal Government for a Canada Day event.

We are happy to announce that a plan is in the works to host a family friendly celebration

on ***June 30th*** at the ***Nardam Park*** complete with food and games.

The Rycroft Community Library has partnered with the MD to host this great family event.

Keep checking the MD of Spirit River Facebook page and website for all updates and details.

AND did you know research has shown that ***people who volunteer often live longer*** *– so come live longer with us, we always need volunteers!*

For more information contact us at ***(780) 765 3973*** *or email* ***rycroftlibraryboard@outlook.com***

Wasn't **That** *a* **Party***!*

More than 500 people attended the Rycroft Agricultural Society's Spring Break up Dance. This year's event was in partnership with the Grande Spirit Foundation (GSF) in an effort to raise funds toward furnishings for the new senior's lodge. And a whopping $450,000 was raised.

"It was phenomenal"*, said Steve Madden CEO of the GSF.* ***"This exceeded our expectations."***

In addition to dinner and a dance an auction and silent auction was held. ***"We are very grateful to all the generous sponsors and bidders who made this such a success"*** *said Rycroft Agricultural Society President Dean Wark* ***"This is always a great event, but this year was extraordinary"***, he added.

Grand opening of the new senior's facility is scheduled for June 1st, 2024.