

# 1 Ward



**Strathcona**  
County

www.strathcona.ca

**Vic Bidzinski**  
**Councillor, Ward 1**

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## from your County Councillor Vic Bidzinski

I love this time of year. The air is warm, the birds are singing and the grass and flowers are growing. This change seems to revitalize my spirit and further enforces my resolve to work even harder than usual on your behalf.

We always have a number of challenges as we come out of winter solstice and into spring and then summer. Our annual cleanup, as well as our roads, becomes a priority for our staff.

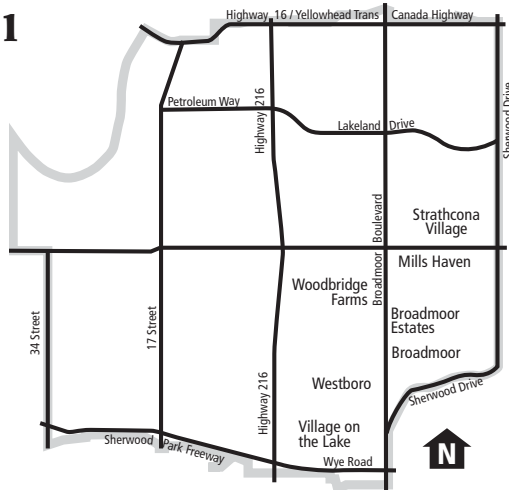
We have been very fortunate this past winter with the weather and subsequent snow fall. Our Council decided to initiate a new snow clearing policy as of January 1, instead of February 1, which proved a blessing for our residents. We are now working on our summer projects, such as roads, community beautification, summer recreation activities, as well as many others.



I also believe, as this is an election year, we may see the push to finalize a number of substantial issues, but sometimes without proper consultation with our residents. I believe public consultation is vital to obtain a proper perspective on any substantial issues. We need to improve our present method of communicating with our public to move forward and address issues. I am hoping common sense will prevail and we will be able to put together a vision working with residential consultation, taking into consideration the substantial work done through previous consultations. We must thoroughly determine the future of

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### Ward 1



**Coffee chat**  
**Saturday, June 12**  
**2 - 4 p.m.**  
**Café Haven**  
Corner of Broadmoor Boulevard  
and Sioux Road

**From your County Councillor**

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our municipality for us, our children and our grandchildren.

I will be completing my yearly door knocking over the next month, so I will be seeing a number of you twice this year, once now and again in the fall. Until then, I would like to wish all of you a very safe and wonderful summer.

**Power line scenario**

The power line scenario is still uppermost in my and I hope everyone's mind right now, as I know it will affect all Strathcona County residents. This is especially true of those who are adjacent to the Transmission Utility Corridor (TUC), the green corridor between Strathcona County (Sherwood Park) and Edmonton. While I have written about this subject a number of times, I believe it is imperative that all our residents are up to date on what is happening, and our options.

The preferred route for this 500kv power line has been announced as this TUC, which will affect our residents, I believe, both health wise and monetarily. I also believe we must continue to try and influence whatever final decision is made as the process is now in the hands of the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC). The AUC will shortly hold hearings to determine if the preferred route is the most feasible and logical route, and just how it should be built. I am also still of the belief we should never forget that our provincial elected representatives are the final decision makers in this province and, as such, can make adjustments to any decision made by their appointed representatives, the TUC Board. We as citizens who elected our representatives must ensure they are accountable for any decision made by their appointees.

Strathcona County is positioned to intervene at the AUC hearings, but I believe it is important that we as individuals, whenever possible, make our viewpoints known to the Board

at these hearings. The AUC is in the process of indicating how this process will work. They are holding meetings in different locations to inform us of the process. I know my column will be printed after the meeting in Sherwood Park, but there are other meetings being held in different locations you can attend. If you are unable to attend, please talk to me and I will let you know how you can proceed. I will attend the meeting in Sherwood Park.

There is also a citizens' group called RETA (Responsible Electrical Transmission for Albertans), centred in Sherwood Park, with whom we are in constant contact and who have been working diligently to influence any decision. They have done considerable research on the impacts of this decision and anyone who has not yet done so should consider joining their group. They can be contacted at [www.retasite.wordpress.com](http://www.retasite.wordpress.com).

I have from the beginning questioned the need for this massive (20 story) power line, but the province has made the decision that it is needed. My next scenario is that if it proceeds, the portion that is adjacent to any population density must be located underground for a number of reasons, the least of which is health. A new study just released indicates that this underground scenario is feasible at a very minimal cost. If we accomplish nothing else, we must convince the AUC that this underground scenario is the only decision that will benefit everyone involved in this massive project.

I am and will continue to work for the safety and well being of all our residents. If you need my assistance on any matters, please call me and I will be pleased to help if I can.



# Celebrate 22nd annual Seniors Jamboree

June 7 to 13 is Seniors' Week in Alberta. In Strathcona County, we will honour our local seniors on Friday, June 11 at the Seniors Jamboree.

At the Jamboree, you can sing along with the Sherwood Music Makers, pick up resources at the information and lifestyle fair, and enjoy your lunch while you visit with friends and neighbours.

This year's jamboree will be held at the Ardrossan Recreation Complex from 10:30 a.m. to 2:15 p.m. Lunch tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at the Information and Volunteer Centre, as well as Family and Community Services. Busing is available for anyone requiring transportation. Call 780-464-4044 for transportation, or for additional event details.



## Conserve water using a rain barrel

Place your barrel under a downspout nearest to your garden. You may need to cut or re-arrange your downspout to sit above your barrel. Placing blocks beneath the barrel to raise it up will make for easy access to the hose adapter — make sure your barrel is stable. Combine several barrels together for more water storage, or add a soaker hose to your barrel to water your plants' roots more efficiently during dry weather. Get creative and save water.



## Kinsmen/Westboro revitalization strategy

The Kinsmen/Westboro master plan provides direction for improvements that meet the needs of user groups, as well as align with funding opportunities and implementation through the annual Council budget process.

Visioning workshops and open houses have also allowed stakeholders to participate in the conceptual design

of the park. The following improvements have been identified for Kinsmen/Westboro: add lighting in key activity areas, develop trails, relocate playground and spray deck, add a snow bank rink, grade site to create sliding area, add multi-purpose play surface, plant trees and shrubs, add an entry sign and floral paintings, and improve maintenance.

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## Revised parking management plan approved

The Centre in the Park and Community Centre Parking Management Plan was approved at the May 18 Council meeting.

Administration presented a revised plan that responded to public and staff input collected after release of the originally proposed Parking Management Plan, which was presented to Council on March 23.

Under the approved plan, paid parking will only be charged for public and staff parking in the new Community Centre underground parkade when it opens November 1.

The paid-parking rates for the parkade will be:

- \$2 per hour, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., weekdays
- \$2 flat fee after 5 p.m. on weekdays, and on weekends and holidays
- no free parking will be available in the parkade
- staff will pay a monthly fee to park in the parkade

**All street and surface parking lots in Centre in the Park will remain free.**

This includes the Broadmoor Lake/Festival Place parking lot and the staff outdoor parking lot. Public can use

the staff parking lot after 5 p.m. on weekdays as well. The County Hall east parking lot will have a 30-minute time limit. Street parking adjacent to the Community Centre will have a two-hour time limit.

Further details on the parking program for Centre in the Park will be included in future information on the opening of the new Community Centre.

Centre in the Park is a multi-use area being developed in Sherwood Park. It combines municipal services, local government, residences, retail services and inviting public spaces... creating a heart for our community.

Centre in the Park links to existing amenities such as Broadmoor Lake Park, Festival Place, the trail system, businesses and schools. The Community Centre in Centre in the Park will be a hub for civic life and community celebration in Strathcona County.

More information is available at [www.strathcona.ca](http://www.strathcona.ca). If you would like to express your opinion, please contact me at 780-464-8005.

## Lawn busting takes hold in Strathcona County

With the snow melted and spring in the air, yard maintenance is now top of mind for many Strathcona County residents. For some older adults in our community, lawn care can be challenging and dangerous. In the 2009 Seniors Plan Survey, County seniors indicated that assistance with home maintenance, such as yard work, is one of the best ways to help them remain in their homes longer.



In response, Strathcona County Family and Community Services introduced a lawn mowing program. Lawn Busters matches eligible seniors with volunteers who will help them with their yard maintenance.

Residents can help by 1) taking some extra time when caring for their own yard to give a neighbour a helping hand, or 2) registering as a volunteer with the Lawn Busters program.

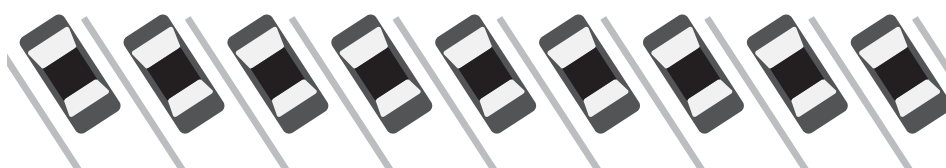
Volunteers may be individuals, families, teams or groups, who enjoy working outside, want to make community connections and prefer a flexible volunteer schedule.

To register, seniors must:

- Be a Strathcona County resident aged 65 or over
- Be physically unable to perform yard maintenance tasks
- Have an annual income of less than \$24,000 for an individual or \$39,000 for a couple

To request help or to register as a volunteer, call 780-464-4044.

More information is available at [www.strathcona.ca/fcs](http://www.strathcona.ca/fcs).



## Driver feedback signs coming to Sherwood Park

Strathcona County is purchasing five driver speed feedback signs – one for each of the five urban wards. The purpose of the signs is to alert motorists of their speed. Built-in radar is used to determine the speed of an oncoming vehicle which is displayed on a lighted board. Only vehicle speeds between a site specific minimum and maximum limit will be displayed.

The signs have been ordered and are expected to be ready by late May. FortisAlberta has agreed to let the County use their light standards to mount the signs and accompanying solar panels.

Signs will be placed mid-block on a collector road (such as Nottingham Boulevard, Alder Avenue and Jim Common Drive) in each ward for a period of eight weeks. For the first two weeks, the sign will be in stealth mode. It will appear that the sign is not working when, in fact, it is gathering speed data on passing cars. For weeks three to six, the display will be activated. During the final two weeks, the sign will once again be programmed to stealth mode. This will give traffic engineers information on whether the speed being displayed makes a difference to drivers' speeds. Signs will also be placed in school and playground zones.

Look for information on the signs at website [www.strathcona.ca](http://www.strathcona.ca).

## Communities in Bloom needs you

Communities in Bloom needs a Volunteer Secretary, as well as Flowerbed Coordinators and Maintenance Volunteers for 2010. Flowerbed Coordinators help decide what to plant in the beds, organize the volunteers and ensure their beds are maintained during the summer. Only one to two hours per week, days or evenings, of your time is required. Call Colleen @ 780-464-8287 with your name and phone number.

## Beautiful gardens inspire others

### Nominate a front yard in Sherwood Park this summer

The next time you are out walking, rollerblading, cycling or driving around Sherwood Park, keep your eye out for beautiful front yards worthy of Communities in Bloom recognition.

Outstanding front gardens inspire others and help beautify our community. For that reason, we invite you to nominate attractive front yards in Sherwood Park. They can be your

neighbours, friends, relatives — anyone with a noteworthy front yard. Every nomination will receive a small yard sign. Winners will receive prizes and special recognition.

Call 780-464-8287 with your name and phone number, as well as the address you wish to nominate. You can also nominate by email to: [pat.brehaut@telus.net](mailto:pat.brehaut@telus.net).



## Backyard composter tips

Set up your composter in a well drained area of your yard. Place loose twigs, pine needles or other coarse, dry material at the bottom of your composter for drainage and air circulation. Add some dried leaves or dry plant clippings, top with a splash of water, then add your vegetable and fruit peelings, coffee grounds, egg shells and yard scraps, and top with garden soil. Repeat these layers a second time—each layer should be five to 10 centimetres thick.

If your pile is too dry, add water and more nutrient-rich scraps. If it is too wet or has an odour, turn it with a shovel and add more dry material.

Compost should have a neutral, earthy odour and a black, crumbly texture when finished. Add finished

compost to gardens, around shrubs or sprinkle as a top dressing over your lawn.

Learn more at [www.strathcona.ca/utilities](http://www.strathcona.ca/utilities)

