

## Ward 4

Township Road 534



### Distribution of this newsletter

This newsletter is intended for residents of Ward 4, as shown on the map above. To economize, it is being distributed according to delivery zones of Canada Post, which do not coincide with ward boundaries. As a result, a limited number of households in Ward 2 may receive a copy. If so, please enjoy the information and note that the councillor for Ward 2 is Roxanne Carr, 780-464-8002.

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# Strathcona County

[www.strathcona.ab.ca](http://www.strathcona.ab.ca)

# Ward 4 October 2009 update

## From your councillor



Councillor Peter Wlodarczak

## Hello Ward 4 residents

Hello again residents. As I write, we are in the lazy hazy days of September where the weather is unseasonably warm but I think we will all take it. We are all too aware of what we face as the months go by.

Speaking of the months going by I have no idea where July and August went. Time sure does fly and I find the older you get, (my age that is) the quicker it goes. I truly hope you had a good and restful summer and were able to get away for a holiday.

It has been pretty dry this year and I'm sure you have all noticed the beating that the boulevards and trees have taken. We sure have missed the rain.

## Change to snow clearing policy

The next thing we of course have to face is winter and with it the snowfall.

In my last newsletter, I commented on the problems we faced in getting a residential street clearing done. Since last year, Council has again amended the snow removal policy for P4 streets, which are residential streets. The threshold date for removal was previously February 1, and we have now moved it back to January 1. We have also reduced the compacted snow level that was required, from 10 cm to 7 cm.

We are hopeful that the earlier date and the decreased snow pack will provide our transportation department more flexibility in starting a general snow removal.

## Budget 2010

With this time of year, comes the budget for 2010. Please be assured that Council is very sensitive to property tax increases and we will be doing our level best to keep the rate to as low as possible. No doubt, as time passes, you will be able to follow the budget debate in our local newspaper.

One of the problems we face in developing budgets is that we rely on other levels of government for funding in certain areas. At this time, we are not sure whether some of the funding in place will remain, and that could impact our overall ability to get capital projects done.

# Ward 4 update

From your Councillor, continued from page 1

You can be assured though that Council and Administration are doing all they can to ensure we receive our share of grants.

In my last newsletter, I commented on tenders coming in lower given the economic situation. This had held true in some instances, but as of yet we do not know the exact amounts nor the benefits.

There are always unforeseen issues the County faces. As you know, there was a large fire in the northeast portion of the County this year. A fire in the County has to be fought by and paid for by the County. The cost of fighting that fire was \$2.5 million.

Money was not budgeted for such a fire and as you can deduce that will have an impact on any benefits we might receive from lower tenders. Council is considering establishing a fund that would set monies aside in the event we face a large magnitude fire again.

## Capital Region Board

The Capital Region Board still consumes quite a bit of my time. The Province has accepted the plan that was presented in April but has directed that further work be done in the area of land use. The work of the Land Use Committee is focusing on where growth should come in the future. It is also wrestling with other issues, such as density of development and containment of certain types of development.

Having seen what is being worked

on, I am fairly confident that Strathcona County is well placed within the plans. The land use plan has to be completed by October 31 of this year. I will let you know more on this in the future.

Typically, the period leading up to December is very busy for Council and I see the same trend developing again.

In the past few months, I have received a larger than normal number of requests for service from the Ward residents. Some things I can handle in pretty quick order, some actually take me a year or more to get resolved. As I have always said, I see the residents I serve as my priority.

May God richly bless all of you and may he watch over Strathcona County.

Best Regards Peter

  
Psalm 139

## Proposed high-voltage transmission lines

There is not much to report since my last newsletter. A final route has not been selected and the four routes, two west and two east of Edmonton, are still the options open.

The service providers are supposed to state their selected route early next year. The resident group RETA (Responsible Electricity Transmission for Albertans) is still very active in this area and you can get further information from their website at [www.reta.ca](http://www.reta.ca).

I have been advised that the preferred and alternate routes will be identified in November, with the final decision being selected early in 2010.

## Support to Citizens on Patrol



Presenting the keys: Our local Citizens on Patrol group will have the use of a van from Sherwood Park Hyundai to help with their speed monitoring in residential areas. Above, from left, Perry Papadogonas of Sherwood Park Hyundai; Councillor Roxanne Carr; Ron Reese of Citizens on Patrol; Councillor Wlodarczak; Bruce Nelson of Citizens on Patrol.

## Highway 21 update

In my last newsletter, the Highway 21 residents' group provided an update on that issue. Since then, a noise study commissioned by the group has been done. The Provincial Government noise study done for Highway 21 ascertained that the sound, averaged over a 24-hour period, was 65 decibels. The most recent study done by the residents found that the average noise per hour was 53 decibels.

As you can readily see, this is lower than the Provincial study. When the Province did their study, they did no field testing and the premise of their study was based on traffic counts. The resident study involved the actual placement of monitors. The study was done by the same group that the Province wished to contract in the first instance. The group felt that the study would come back higher than the 65 decibels and so did I.

Clearly, the study shows that the Province by their policy is not required to build sound attenuation structures. The Province is committed to doing another sound study, once the highway is twinned.

Since then, residents have tested the noise on an elevated deck and found it to be higher than 65 decibels. The dilemma is that the study was done according to accepted practices. The Provincial official who I spoke with did say that when they do their additional test, they will test noise at higher levels and not just behind a fence. Time will tell the outcome and I will be sure to let you know.

The highway is still planned to be opened mid- to late October. There will be four intersections controlled by lights: Lakeland Drive, Baseline Road, Wye Road and Township Road 522 (Whitemud connector). There will also be a full access level crossing at Ranchlands.

The speed recommended on Highway 21 from Lakeland to Township 522, is 80 km/h. Right now it is a mix of 100 to 70 km/h. The consistent speed and synchronized lights will greatly assist with safety and a side effect will be diminished noise.

## Drug paraphernalia bylaw

Earlier this year, I and other Councillors received a complaint about local business advertising for sale, what in essence is drug paraphernalia on County right-of-ways.

Ward 8 Councillor Jason Garipey and I made some inquiries into this matter. Certainly people have the right to retail items that do not fall within some type of prohibition.

In my previous work, I have encountered drugs and drug paraphernalia too many times to recount. Though there are some who might argue a person's right to sell objects such as pipes and bongs, in my 36 years of police experience, the only use I ever encountered for such things is for the use of illicit drugs.

Sadly, illicit drugs are pervasive in our society and in my mind a scourge to all of us. Any action that we as a community can take to deter those who might be contemplating the use of illicit drugs is a step in the right direction.

At Council on September 22, an amendment to the Land Use Bylaw was

unanimously passed, prohibiting the sale of drug paraphernalia. It states:

Where a development includes the sale of drug paraphernalia, it shall

- a) be located within a district that includes Retail, Drug Paraphernalia as a listed use

- b) be located no less than 500 m from the boundary of any site with an approved development permit for, or, that is being actively used for, or has been designated as a reserve for community recreation, park, private or public education, care centres or religious assembly uses; and

- c) not display or permit to be displayed in any window or elsewhere, where it can be seen by a person outside the premises, any drug paraphernalia.

In addition, the amendment to the Bylaw will also prohibit any business from advertising the sale of drug paraphernalia on public property. Public property includes County road right of ways.

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## Development activities in the County

In my last newsletter, I told you I would let you know how activity fared in the first part of 2009. From January to June of 2008 there was approximately \$246 million in construction value.

For 2009, it is \$140 million. Housing starts for the same period of 2008 were 206 and in 2009 it was 190. If the housing starts hold the same pattern for the rest of the year, we should see an increase over the 2008 starts. I will keep you posted.

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## Recreation amenities in Ward 4

In my last newsletter, I advised you of an outdoor ice rink that would be built in McGhan Park. I had not seen any progress so I have checked with Administration to ascertain where this stands.

While it was hoped to have happened sooner, the tender has gone out. If the weather holds, the rink will be built this year. If not, it may be

delayed until 2010.

I am disappointed by this turn of events as I would have liked to have seen it in place. I know that some residents were looking forward to it.

I console myself with the fact that if not this year then for sure the next. I will closely monitor this to ensure it gets done.

## CASA House

CASA House will be operated by the CASA Foundation, which provides Child Adolescent and Family Mental Health Services. The Foundation is a not-for-profit society. They receive funding from the provincial government as well as private donations. They provide services only to youth, between the ages of 12 and 17 years.

CASA House is the building you will see at the north end of Clover Bar Road—it is pretty well complete. The Foundation has accepted the building from the contractor and is in the process of moving in.

I have had a tour of the facility and I am very impressed with it. I was most impressed with the design and style of the building and the security features

they have in place. They will provide service to adolescents from Central and Northern Alberta and have 20 beds.

It is a state-of-the-art facility. In addition to the bedrooms, it has a cafeteria space, gymnasium and classrooms. It is a requirement that the youths in the facility attend school and they are taught by qualified teachers. In addition to the clinical support provided to the adolescents, the families of those youths are also involved in the treatment phase.

CASA House will provide a valuable and much needed service to the adolescents and their families and I am more than confident that it will be a tremendous asset for the community and the central and northern regions of the Province.

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## Strathcona County Food Bank

Council had the opportunity awhile ago to tour the Food Bank. The tour was most interesting and they provided us some figures I thought you might find interesting:

In 2008, a total of 1,109 hampers were provided. The recipients consisted of 1,885 adults, 930 teens and 1,345 children.

In 2009 from January to the end of August, a total of 1,219 hampers were provided, to 1,581 adults, 456 teens and 1,057 children.

The Food Bank is run completely by a volunteer committee who dedicate a tremendous number of hours to the community. They are to be commended for their dedication and commitment.

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## Green Routine: latest numbers



Get with the **GREEN ROUTINE!**

I thought you might like to see some figures on the Green Routine Waste Management program. Certainly there were some hiccups along the way, especially with the summer collection. I think the weekly collections of organics has gone a long way to solving that problem.

Given the bumps we faced, the program has been an excellent success, in terms of diversion of waste.

Right now, there are 25,200 households participating in the Green

Routine, with approximately 5,000 of them rural. After eleven and a half months of collection, Strathcona County has diverted:

8,390 tonnes of organic material  
5,550 tonnes of paper recyclables  
2,450 tonnes of container recyclables  
Only 9,300 tonnes of waste was sent to the landfill.

Waste is becoming a real issue not only in Strathcona County, the Capital Region and the Province but all over the world. I think it is only a matter of time until all municipalities will have to undertake a program like the Green Routine.

## Clover Bar Road — Lakeland Drive (east of Sherwood Drive) and Summerwood

For those who travel these roads or live in the Summerwood subdivision, you will have observed the state and condition of the landscaping, the presence of weeds and general untidiness. This has not gone unnoticed by some concerned residents.

I regularly travel these areas and have previously queried our Administration on the state of these areas. Granted, the area has a lot of new construction going on, and during these times, things do tend to get out of hand a bit. I think by and large people understand that.

In these instances though, it has gone on far too long and is not acceptable at all. I have raised this matter in Council. With a concerned resident, I have made a thorough bicycle tour of the entire area and documented all shortcomings on a map. Without going into a long explanation, in a lot of these instances, the County is not responsible for the upkeep at this time as we have not accepted the areas from the developer.

I am sure you are as tired of looking at the untidiness as I am and please be assured that I will pursue this matter until all issues are rectified.

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## The hospital

I have no news on the hospital.

It is nearly two years since the groundbreaking and to date there has been very little activity on the site.

Council is unaware of the present status of the hospital other than there is \$44 million in the provincial budget for it. Perhaps when the Finance Minister provides an update in October we will see something.