

# SAPRAE CREEK NEWS



# November 2020

## Councillor Update



Wow, I don't know where the time has gone. By the time you read this, Halloween will be done, the clock will have been set back, and Remembrance Day will be a week or so away.

It's been an interesting past few weeks as Council passed a face covering bylaw. This bylaw goes into effect when the case count in the RMWB rises above 50, and will only be reverted if 30 days have passed since the bylaw came into effect, and if the number of active cases of COVID-19 infections in the Municipality are reported by Alberta Health Services to be less than 50. Masks are mandatory on our transit system, no matter what the number of active cases in the region are. Dr. Hinshaw still recommends a mask when physical distancing isn't possible.

Alberta Health Services is in the process of changing our Emergency Medical Dispatch to their centralized system. The Mayor has had meetings with Minister Shandro and has raised our concerns about having non-local dispatchers. The Mayor also informed the Minister about our mutual aid agreements with industry and has informed him that we have communities that are at least an hour away from the urban service area. We're hoping that the Minister changes his mind and keeps our EMS dispatch in our region.

On to the flood mitigation and the residential engagement for flood affected Draper residents. Please call the PULSE line at 780-743-7000 to request your meeting. You can arrange for the meeting to be by phone or in person. I have been informed that the door-to-door visits are being done by the Communications and Stakeholder Relations department, and they are only asking a couple of questions. I believe that this is how they're ensuring all affected properties are reached. I've also been told that if they are skipping your residence, it's because you've already reached out through PULSE. If you wish to speak with subject matter experts regarding flood mitigation, please reach out to the recovery department at [recovery@rmwb.ca](mailto:recovery@rmwb.ca).

For those on the slope side of Draper and are affected by the movement of the hill, I have forwarded your concerns on to the Engineering department, and I am still waiting for a response. From what I understand, they are still gathering the information required. Please reach out to the PULSE line to schedule an appointment with the Engineering department regarding slope stability, or for any concerns that you wish to report, as they maintain a formal record of your enquiries.

Saprae Creekers, I don't know what to say regarding the rural sewer tie-ins. We did pass a bylaw that was supposed to make things clearer, but that hasn't happened. I have had residents and contractors reach out with concerns and issues with the permitting processes. I'm still trying to get more specific clarification from RMWB Administration and will provide an update once I receive it.

Other than that, stay safe!  
Sheila



The Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo continues to monitor the on-going COVID-19 pandemic and follow the direction of Alberta Health Services (AHS) and the Chief Medical Officer of Health.

For regular updates, please visit [Alberta.ca/COVID19](https://alberta.ca/COVID19).

For municipal information related to COVID-19, visit [rmwb.ca/COVID19](https://rmwb.ca/COVID19).



### **FACE COVERING BYLAW**

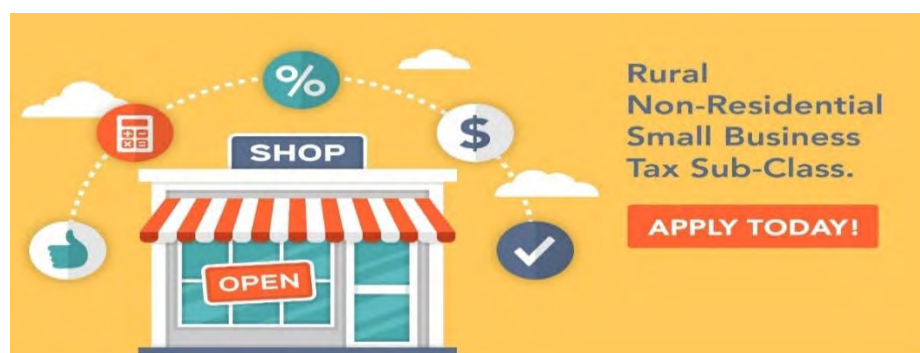
RMWB Council passed the Face Covering Bylaw. This means face coverings are now required on all public transit in the region. For indoor public spaces, face coverings are mandatory if there are 50 or more active cases of COVID-19 in the region. To learn more about the Face Covering Bylaw, visit [www.rmwb.ca/facecovering](https://www.rmwb.ca/facecovering).

## Engineering/Construction Updates – Sapræ Creek Estates

H. Wilson has substantially completed construction activities in the Sapræ Creek community. Some ditching and minor activities to winterize the site is currently taking place. All homes are now off the temporary water connection service.

Chandos Construction is completing work at the new sewage lift station at the Sapræ Creek Estates Firehall property. Minor commissioning activities are ongoing. It is anticipated that the remaining work should be completed prior to the end of the 2020 construction season.

Minimal disruption to residents is expected from these improvement projects.



Do you own a small business in a rural community within the RMWB?

You may be able to save money on your taxes by applying for the rural non-residential small business tax rate.

Your current tax bill doesn't reflect this rate and you must apply every year to receive it. Eligibility requirements and criteria are available online.

Applications are being accepted until Dec. 31, 2020. Regardless of the status of your application, property taxes were due Sept. 30, 2020.

If you qualify for the rural non-residential small business tax sub-class after you pay your taxes, you will receive a credit on your account or receive the funds via cheque.

To apply and learn more, visit [rmwb.ca/taxes](http://rmwb.ca/taxes)

# 2021 Budget

## Follow the upcoming Budget meetings

- December 1: Community Investment Program
- December 2: Operating Budget
- December 3: Capital Budget and Operating Budget continued, if needed.
- December 4: Additional Budget meeting, if required.

All budget meetings **begin at 9:00 a.m.** and are being held through a combination of virtual and physical attendance with strict COVID-19 measures in place. The meetings are open to the public with opportunities to participate in-person or via teleconference. Those able to participate via teleconference and watch the meetings online are strongly encouraged to do so.

A live **online stream** of all budget meetings will be available to everyone at [rmwb.ca/council](https://rmwb.ca/council). Updates will be provided if additional opportunities to watch or listen to the meetings become available.

The Dec. 1 Budget meeting is being held at the Grand Ballroom, Shell Place, 1 CA Knight Way, Fort McMurray.

From Dec. 2 – 4, meetings are being held at the Interim Council Chambers, Syncrude Athletic Park (SAP) Clubhouse, 101 Cartier Rd., Fort McMurray.

## How to participate in the Budget meetings

Members of the public have an opportunity to **make a verbal presentation to Council** during a 30-minute delegation session at the beginning of each budget meeting. If you would like to speak to Council, please **register as a delegate** for the budget meeting most relevant to your presentation and **before the day of the meeting**. Details on how to participate via teleconference or in-person will be provided after you register.

Each registrant will be given a maximum of **5 minutes** to address Council.

To **register as a delegate**, contact Legislative Service by:

**Email:** [Legislative.Assistants@rmwb.ca](mailto:Legislative.Assistants@rmwb.ca) or

**Telephone:** 780-743-7001

Do you have questions about the budget? Are you wondering how the budget process works? To learn more, visit [rmwb.ca/budget](https://rmwb.ca/budget)

Stay tuned for more budget updates by checking the municipal website, following us on Facebook or Twitter, or contacting Pulse at 780-743-7000, toll-free 1-800-973-9663 or [rmwb.ca/pulse](https://rmwb.ca/pulse).



## Travelling to Fort McMurray this winter?

Watch out for on-street parking restrictions!

Winter Maintenance Zones season begins Oct. 15! This means there may be on-street parking restrictions in effect while snow is being removed from residential streets in Fort McMurray.

Make sure to follow posted signage and electronic signage in the neighbourhood you park your vehicle. On street parking restrictions occur on weekdays from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. if winter maintenance is needed.

Help us clear a path through winter and plan ahead for on-street parking restrictions at [rmwb.ca/snowplow](http://rmwb.ca/snowplow).

### How do Winter Maintenance Zones work?

Every neighbourhood has been divided into five Winter Maintenance Zones, one for each weekday. Each Winter Maintenance Zone is further broken down into four subzones 1, 2, 3 and 4. On the day that each Zone is active, some of the Subzones within the larger active Zone will be serviced and others will be relaxed. Residents will be able to park in relaxed Subzones without being ticketed or towed. Relaxed Subzones will be communicated on neighbourhood electronic signage, WMZ email Alerts, social media and [rmwb.ca](http://rmwb.ca).

Residents can find the neighbourhood Zones and Subzones on street signage and online at [rmwb.ca/snowplow](http://rmwb.ca/snowplow).

If you have any questions about Winter Maintenance Zones, connect with Pulse at 780-743-7000, toll-free at 1-800-973-9663 or online at [rmwb.ca/pulse](http://rmwb.ca/pulse).



## Free, online Indigenous Learning Series available to RMWB residents

An online Indigenous Learning Series developed for municipal employees in Wood Buffalo is now being offered free to all residents through the RMWB website.

The municipality worked with a local Indigenous company in developing these training resources. The interactive courses also feature a local Indigenous artist as narrator.

The learning modules are required training for municipal employees as part of the RMWB's response to Truth and Reconciliation. They provide an opportunity to recognize the strength of present-day Indigenous communities and reflect upon ways that people can personally contribute to advancing Reconciliation. Each takes approximately one hour to complete.

To learn more and to take the courses, visit our website at [www.rmwb.ca/trc](http://www.rmwb.ca/trc)

- The first online module – Indigenous Awareness – explores terminology, facts and myths, and the Indigenous communities in Wood Buffalo.
- The second module – Moving Towards Reconciliation – explores the history and impacts of Canada's residential school system, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action, and how everyone can contribute to Reconciliation.

"These courses help all to understand the impacts that residential schools have had on Indigenous Peoples and provide a meaningful opportunity to work together toward Reconciliation." – Dennis Fraser, Director, Indigenous and Rural Relations.

## Santa Claus Parade is looking for businesses and community groups to register floats



Santa Claus  
is coming  
to town!



Float registration for this year's Santa Claus Parade is now open. Interested local businesses, non-profits and community groups are encouraged to help spread the holiday cheer by registering a float before November 20<sup>th</sup>.

This year's parade will be a **drive-thru reverse parade** held at the MacDonald Island Park. In a reverse parade, the floats are stationary and the public will drive-thru to view the floats. The new parade format has been designed to ensure the safety of our residents.

### Important dates:

- **Deadline** to register a float for the Santa Claus parade is November 20, 2020
- Santa Claus parade will be held on December 5, 2020 from 5 – 9 p.m. at MacDonald Island Park. Additional detail on how to attend the parade will be made available to the public in the near future.

To register for a float and to learn more about this year's Santa Claus Parade, visit [rmwb.ca/santa](http://rmwb.ca/santa).



**Enter The  
"Name the Newsletter"  
Contest!**

Saprae Creek Newsletter needs a new name.

This is a contest for all residents to participate in.

Submit your suggestions to  
[Joanne.clark@rmwb.ca](mailto:Joanne.clark@rmwb.ca) or [Koralee.samaroden@rmwb.ca](mailto:Koralee.samaroden@rmwb.ca)

Contest closed December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020



Do you like to take pictures? Do you like to draw?

We are looking for pictures and/or images of Saprae Creek to use in the Community Newsletter

Submit your digital pictures or artwork to  
[joanne.clark@rmwb.ca](mailto:joanne.clark@rmwb.ca)



#100, 130 Prospect Drive  
Fort McMurray, AB T9K 2Z5

T 780.743.4691  
F 780.791.5560

[www.waypointswb.ca](http://www.waypointswb.ca)



## Family Violence Prevention Month: Getting to know the Waypoints Outreach Team

Family violence can affect anyone. It does not discriminate against age, race, religion or economic status. It can come in many forms, including physical or sexual abuse, stalking or being kept from seeing others. Family violence is an abuse of power in a family or other trusting relationship where people rely on each other. When someone experiences family violence, their well-being, security and survival are threatened.

Each November, communities across Alberta gather to raise awareness and take a stand against family violence. By raising awareness all year around, the Outreach Program hopes to bring family violence out of the darkness of the home to support survivors and create healthy individuals, relationships and homes.

The Outreach team provides services in the urban and rural communities of the RMWB. We travel to Anzac, Conklin, Fort McKay, Fort McMurray, Janvier and Fort Chipewyan. Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, we have been working virtually with clients via zoom as well as over the phone support. The Outreach team provides support, advocacy, safety planning, information, and referrals to people affected by family violence, intimate partner violence, sexual assault, and trauma. The Outreach team recognizes the impact of intergenerational trauma and strives to help individuals break this cycle through prevention and awareness measures. We are here to help families establish healthy homes and move through the process of healing. All our services are free of charge and open to all residents of the region.

Our Outreach Counsellors provide 1 on 1 counselling to individuals who have been impacted by trauma. A traumatic experience can be different for everyone. It can happen if someone experiences something scary, threatening, dangerous or upsetting. It can impact and negatively change a person's body, mind, relationships, beliefs, identity, and general living. Our counsellors provide emotional support and assistance to positively navigate through personal difficulties for those affected by historical trauma and to prevent further harm.

Our Support Workers facilitate a variety of presentations and workshops related to domestic-family violence and relationship conflicts. We also run a 12-week psychoeducational program called Creating Your Own Direction Circle which can be completed in a group or individual setting via Zoom. Over all themes of this program are thought awareness, emotional regulation, boundaries, healthy/unhealthy relationships, and self-compassion.

If you or someone you know may need help managing symptoms that can be associated with trauma, or are looking for information or resources to better assist you in your healing journey, feel free to reach out to one of our Outreach Team members!

If you or someone you know is experiencing abuse or an unhealthy relationship, please call or 24/7 Family Violence Crisis Line at 780-743-1190

*Working toward a community free of domestic violence, sexual assault,  
abuse and homelessness.*

## VULNERABLE PERSONS REGISTRY (VPR)



### VULNERABLE PERSONS REGISTRY

The VPR is a free, voluntary and confidential service aimed at improving the safety of residents living at home who would be at a greater risk during emergencies.

The VPR is available to residents in the region who:

- Experience severe difficulty with mobility, vision or hearing
- Have developmental/intellectual, cognitive or mental health challenges
- Require electricity for life-sustaining equipment such as life support, oxygen, dialysis etc.

To register, go to [rmwb.ca/VPR](http://rmwb.ca/VPR) or call Pulse at 780-743-700 or toll-free at 1-800-973-9663.

## For any questions, please contact Pulse!



Residents in rural communities can contact the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo 24/7 by contacting Pulse via the following:

- 780-743-7000
- 1-800-973-9663 (toll-free)
- [www.rmwb.ca/pulse](http://www.rmwb.ca/pulse)



## IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

PULSE (MUNICIPAL SWITCH BOARD)	1-800-973-9663 780-743-7000	PULSE@RMWB.CA	RMWB.CA/PULSE
<b>COMMUNITY CONTACTS:</b>		<b>SOCIAL MEDIA:</b>	
RCMP	780-788-4000	 @WOODBUFFALORURALCOMMUNITYCONNECTION	
FISH & WILDLIFE	780-743-7200		
HEALTH LINK	811		
ALL EMERGENCIES	911		
		 @RMWOODBUFFALO	
		 @RMWOODBUFFALO	

To submit information to the newsletter please email:

[koralee.samaroden@rmwb.ca](mailto:koralee.samaroden@rmwb.ca)

Deadline for December newsletter submissions:

November 26, 2020

# NOVEMBER 2020

## COMMUNITY EVENTS & PROGRAMS CALENDAR

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6 	
8	9	10	11 Remembrance Day 	12	13 	14
15	16	17	18	19	20 	21
22	23	24	25	26 Newsletter submissions due.	27 	28
29	30	27	28	29	30 	