



The Insider, March 30

Find out what's new at the RMWB on March 30, 2026.

Paws, claws & everything in between: National Pet Day is April 11!

April 11 is National Pet Day, and we're celebrating the furry, feathery, and scaly companions that make life a little brighter - especially after a long day at work.

This year's celebration feels extra meaningful. For the first time, our Census 2025 findings included pets, and the results are **pawsitively** impressive: there are more than 18,000 pets in the region! It's clear that pets aren't "just animals" here - they're part of the family.

To mark the occasion, we're inviting you to share photos of your beloved pets. Whether it's a dog, cat, fish, horse, hamster, reptile, or something more unexpected, we want to see them!

Check out some of the pets we highlighted in last year's pet photo contest:

How to participate:

- Submit a photo of your pet to TheInsider@rmwb.ca by April 10.
- Every submission will be entered into a random draw to win some great branded prizes.

Join us in celebrating the pets that bring so much joy to our homes—and to the region. We can't wait to meet them!

You do WHAT!? Beyond the desk at the RMWB

When he's not supervising operations at the Water Treatment Plant, **Mike Hewitt** is helping rebuild water systems around the world.

Recently named the **2025 Gerald Samuel Operator of the Year**—a first for Fort McMurray since 1991—Mike's expertise reaches far beyond the RMWB.

Through Operators Without Borders and Needs4Water, he's trained operators, assessed damaged systems, and helped restore safe, reliable water infrastructure in communities across Africa, the Caribbean, and beyond.

From proctoring certification exams in Kenya, to post-hurricane recovery work in the British Virgin Islands, to leading school water and hygiene improvements in Ethiopia that now affect tens of thousands of students, Mike focuses on practical fixes that last. His work is grounded in the same standards we rely on here: safe water, compliant systems, and strong local operators.

Next up? Assessing water infrastructure in Nepal and supporting community-led water projects across East Africa in 2026.

Mike credits the RMWB's support for making this work possible—and his impact abroad reflects the professionalism and commitment he brings to our region every day.

Do you have an interesting hobby, passion, or skill outside of your work hours?

Share with [The Insider](#) and we'll highlight you in a future You do WHAT!? story.

Reminder: Updated user fees, rates and charges take effect April 1

Starting April 1, several user rates for municipal services will be updated. The changes were [approved by Council](#) last fall.

While most rates remain unchanged, a number of municipal services will see adjustments. This includes increases to select landfill and cemetery fees, certain assessment and taxation charges,

and specific planning and development services. Some fees have also been reduced or eliminated entirely.

A full list of all the user fees, rates and charges can be found at rmwb.ca/userfees.

Did you know that the User fees, Rates and Charges bylaw is reviewed and adjusted annually? During the annual review of the Fees, Rates and Charges Bylaw, Administration assesses the user rates in similar municipalities.

The adjusted municipal rates remain some of the **lowest** in Alberta.

Hammering towards opening day at the Northside Twin Arena

Every beam and upgrade brings us closer to opening day!

Construction at the Northside Twin Arena continues to progress steadily, keeping us on schedule for a fall 2026 opening and an exciting new chapter for the community.

Thanks to the Project Management Office for sharing this sneak peek with us!

Last chance to enter to win the Mayor's parking spot at Jubilee Centre!

The Mayor's Office is hosting a food drive this March in support of the Wood Buffalo Food Bank.

Take part and you could win Mayor Bowman's parking spot for the entire month of April!

How to enter

- Donate a grocery bag of non-perishable food items with an approximate value of \$20 by **March 30**.
- For each bag donated, you'll receive one entry into the draw.

This draw is open to municipal employees located in Jubilee Centre.

Please drop off your donations at the Mayor's Office.

Staff snapshots: Where we are & what we're up to

Timberlea RCMP Detachment beats the winter blues with a cake picnic

To help with the winter blues, staff at the Timberlea RCMP Detachment took part in a Cake Picnic last week!

Little Firefighters get a visit from a "big" firefighter

Last week, Craig Danforth, senior fire investigator, took time to visit preschoolers at the Wood Buffalo Regional Library's Little Firefighters event!

Lunch, lines, and new perspective

Last week, residents and staff participated in a free artistic workshop with local artist, **Alexandra Kavanagh!**

Whether seasoned artists or complete beginners, everyone left with newfound skills and a sense of accomplishment.

Alexandra's [Colours of Industry](#) exhibition will be on display in the Jubilee Centre lobby until April 17.

Contact us

For questions and concerns, contact TheInsider@rmwb.ca.

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