

SAPRAE CREEK NEWS



June 2025

Be a voice for youth issues in the region

Students entering grades 9 to 12 in the next school year are encouraged to apply for the **Mayor's Advisory Council on Youth (MACOY)** this summer!



Made up of 26 students from across the region, MACOY members get to:

- 💛 Work closely with community leaders.
- 🗣️ Advocate for the youth of Wood Buffalo.
- 👉 Participate in meaningful volunteer work.
- 📅 Support community events.
- 😄 And more!



How can rural students participate?

MACOY meetings are flexible and will be adjusted to ensure **all** members can participate seamlessly.

Apply online

If you're ready to give a voice to youth in the region, meet new people and build valuable skills for your resume, apply online by Aug. 18 at rmwb.ca/MACOY.

Showcase your community spirit on Canada Day



Connect with the people that call Fort McMurray Wood Buffalo home with a float or walking group in the Canada Day Parade on July 1 at 10:30 a.m. Register by 4 p.m. on June 16 at rmwb.ca/CanadaDay.

Fundraise for your organization or group

Contribute to Canada Day's success and raise funds for your organization at the same time! There are eight fundraising opportunities available for local non-profit community organizations and groups. Positions include barricade monitors, safety walkers and members of the Swag Squad.

Apply for an opportunity by June 16 at rmwb.ca/CanadaDay.

Get ready to line the sidewalks with red, white and orange - safely

Family, friends, and neighbours, get ready to line the sidewalks of Franklin Avenue with red, white and orange to enjoy the Canada Day Parade on July 1 at 10:30 a.m.

The parade will travel down Franklin Ave., beginning on Main St. and ending on Riedel St. For community members seeking a quieter parade experience, find a spot along Main St. between Clearwater Dr. and Franklin Ave. for a sensory-friendly experience from 10:15 to 10:30 a.m.

There will be more free family events and activities happening too: keep an eye out for updates from MacDonald Island Park and other community organizations.

Reflect on Canada's shared history

Let's celebrate Canada Day in a way that unites us as a community.

Acknowledge with gratitude that the land on which we live, work and play is Treaty 8 territory, the traditional and ancestral land of the Cree, Dene and the unceded territory of the Métis.

Learn more about moving reconciliation forward in the region at rmwb.ca/TRC.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SESSION

JUNE 4TH

5-6pm
Clearwater Lounge

All welcome. Please RSVP - info@vistaridge.ab.ca



WOOD BUFFALO SENIOR SOCIAL

JUNE
TUESDAY | **24** | 12-3 PM
2025

Anzac Recreation Centre
Come join us for a free
bingo and lunch!

TO REGISTER:
FORT MCMURRAY/MCKAY: 780-559-2235
CONKLIN: 780-559-2235
JANVIER: 780-559-2230
ANZAC: 780-334-2298

Transportation Available!

Join the Volunteer Fire Department

We need paid on-call members!



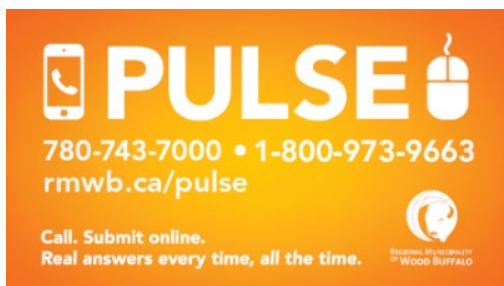
What we do:

We respond to fire emergencies, helping people and protecting property.

What you have:

- Valid Class 5 license. (Q endorsement is even better)
 - Time for weekly training and ability to respond
- Contact: Regional Emergency Services: 780-792-5500

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



Be BearSmart

DO~~N~~'T FEED BEARS

These items have odours that could attract a bear to your property. Keep your yard clean and store what you can in the house or garage.

- garbage ■ birdseed ■ pet food ■ compost
- fruit-bearing trees and shrubs ■ jerry cans
- motor oil ■ anti-freeze ■ rubber ■ vinyl
- insect repellents ■ air fresheners
- scented candles ■ BBQs ■ cooking oil
- food odours coming from open windows
- food and drinks ■ pop cans and other empties
- rabbits, chickens, other small domestic animals
- grain and livestock feed

Doing this can help prevent problems with other kinds of wildlife, too.

www.bearsmart.alberta.ca

If the presence of a bear is a safety concern, contact the nearest Fish and Wildlife office at 310-0000 or, if after regular business hours, call Report a Poacher at 1-800-642-3800.



Alberta
Government

COMMUNITY CLEANUP

Small actions make a
big impact!

Register at
rmwb.ca/cleanup.



Refresh your community and pick up the trash from winter

Get involved with the Adopt-A-Trail program or host a Community Cleanup event!

How can I register?

- Online at rmwb.ca/cleanup.
 - By calling Pulse
- At your local municipal rural office.

Registration for both programs will close Sept. 15, and all cleanup supplies must be returned by Sept. 30.

Learn more at rmwb.ca/cleanup.

Census 2025

Get counted!



The Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo is conducting its municipal census between April 1 and June 30, 2025. Census information is essential for delivering core services in our region. This includes:



Roads



Parks



Emergency
Management



Facilities

COMPLETE YOUR CENSUS:

ONLINE

- Scan the QR code on your PIN letter or visit rmwb.ca/census to visit the Census 2025 portal.
- Enter your PIN in the space provided and complete the questionnaire for your household. The Census should take approximately five minutes to complete.

BY PHONE

- Call 780-743-7000 or 1-800-973-9663 (toll free) to be connected to the PULSE line.
- PULSE operators can also assist residents in PIN retrieval.

Fill out your Census online and you could win!

Visit rmwb.ca/census for prize details.



Some municipal service fees and rates are increasing April 1

In November, RMWB Council approved increases to several user rates and fees as part of the annual update to the user fees, rates and charges bylaw. These include:

- Utilities (water, sewer, garbage + curbside)
- Transit
- Landfill
- Cemeteries
- Development and building permits and services

The increases will help offset the cost of delivering these services.

Rural transit fare increasing April 1, 2025

Rural transit cash fares for adults and children are increasing by 11%, effective April 1.

- **Adult fares (ages 13 – 64):**
 - Current fare: \$12
 - New fare: \$13.50 (11% increase).
- **Child fares (ages 5 – 12):**
 - Current fare: \$6
 - New fare: \$6.75 (11% increase).

Utility rates increasing by 10-15%

Utility rates for municipal water, wastewater, and certain solid waste services are increasing by 10 to 15%. The changes vary depending on the size of the property's water meter and between rural, urban, and commercial services.

New fee structure in place for some administrative services

Additional new fees cover certain ambulance services and community backyard rink applications.

To view the updated rates and learn more about user fees and charges, visit rmwb.ca/userfees

Candidate nominations open for 2025 municipal election

New rules in place for campaigning, find more information at rmwb.ca/elections

Candidate nominations are now open to all eligible residents interested in running for the position of RMWB mayor, councillor or school board trustee.

New rules are in place for 2025 municipal election

Changes to the [Local Authorities Elections Act](#) require candidates to submit a notice of intent to appear on the official register of candidates before accepting campaign donations and incurring expenses. In addition, all candidates must complete the nomination process to appear on the ballot.

The general election for the RMWB and all municipalities in Alberta will be held on Oct. 20, 2025.

Call for candidate nominations

Nominations are now being accepted from candidates for the upcoming 2025 municipal election. Prospective candidates must file their notice of intent and complete the nomination process by **noon on Monday, Sept. 22, 2025**.

Find the notice of intent form, nomination forms, required documentation and additional information for interested candidates at rmwb.ca/elections.

Potential candidates with questions or in need of assistance, can contact the Elections Office through Pulse at 780-743-7000 or email elections@rmwb.ca and a Legislative Services staff member will assist.

Remember to have your bins out by 7:30 a.m. on your collection day

Stay on track with ease —check the [garbage and recycling calendar](https://rmwb.ca/collectioncalendar) for all collection dates visit rmwb.ca/collectioncalendar.



What you need to know

- ✓ **Set your bins out on time** – Place them at the curb by **7:30 a.m.** on collection day.
- ✓ **Remove them the same day** – Bins **must not** be left on the street overnight.

Winter bin placement tips

Make sure your bins are placed in a clear, accessible spot. Bins blocked by snow, ice, or other obstacles may not be collected.

- ❄ Place bins **in front** of snowbanks, never on top or behind.
- ❄ Keep **one-foot** in-between bins and keep them **3 feet** from vehicles.
- ❄ Ensure bins are **firmly closed**.

Thank you for helping keep the community clean and running smoothly!

For more details, visit rmwb.ca/garbage or contact Pulse at 780-743-7000, 1-800-973-9663, or rmwb.ca/pulse.

Budget 2025 approved by RMWB Council

2025 Budget Highlights	Capital Projects \$166.2 million	Parks, Fleet, Transit & Roads \$80.2 million	Police & Bylaw Services \$58.7million
	Operating Budget \$476.2 million	Fire & Ambulance \$46 million	Environmental Services \$79.2 million
			Community Investment Program \$43.5 million

The Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo (RMWB) Council approved a \$645.6 million 2025 Municipal budget on December 4, 2024.

The budget outlines a comprehensive plan that balances delivering safe, reliable services with strategic long-term capital investments to support the region's continued growth and sustainability.

The budget is comprised of \$476.2 million for operations and \$169.4 million to be transferred to reserves. The capital budget is \$166.2 million with funding from grants and 2025 revenues.

The overall increase in the budget from last year is due to the increasing costs of material and supplies across Alberta and all of Canada.

To learn more visit rmwb.ca/budget



WOOD BUFFALO

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

What is it?

- A voluntary program that offers a safe, respectful way to promote healing after harm has occurred.
- Allows offenders to take responsibility for their actions and allows the community to see its role in contributing to reconciliation.
- Provides an opportunity for everyone involved to have a voice and determine actions and outcomes to ensure accountability.

Learn more:

Restorative Justice Contact Information:

- Phone: 780-788-4253
- Toll Free: 1-888-788-4250
- Email: restorative.justice@rmwb.ca

Get involved.

We need committed volunteers to help! Please contact us.

Community Policing - presentations available

The Wood Buffalo Community Policing Unit has a great list of presentations they can bring to communities when requested.

Available presentations

- A Career in the RCMP - Gr 7-Adult
- ATV Safety - Gr 10-Adult
- Being a Good Citizen - ECDP-Gr 6
- Being a Mountie - ECDP-Gr 6
- Bicycle Safety - ECDP-Gr 6
- Bullying (includes Cyberbullying) - ECDP-Gr 9
- Consent - Gr 7-Adult
- Crime Scene Investigations - ECDP-Adult
- Drug Awareness
 - For Teens (cannabis, alcohol, vaping and opioid awareness) - Gr 7-12
 - For Adults (includes clandestine drug labs, methamphetamines, opioids)
- Fraud & Identity Theft - Adult
- Halloween Safety - ECDP-Gr 6
- History of the Force - Gr 4-Adult
- Online Safety (includes Cyberbullying) - ECDP-Gr 6
- Online Safety (include Cyberbullying, Social Media & the Law) - Gr 7-Adult
- Personal Safety - ECDP-Adult
- Police & Canadian Law (for New Canadians) - Gr 10-Adult
- Property Crime Prevention - Adult
- Restorative Justice - Gr 9-Adult
- Senior Safety - Adult
- Sexting - Gr 7-Adult
- Traffic
 - Impaired Driving (Alcohol & Drugs) - Gr 9-Adult
 - Distracted Driving - Gr 9-Adult
 - Winter Driving - Gr 9-Adult
- Unhealthy Relationships/Dating Violence - Gr 7-Adult
- Youth Criminal Justice Act - Gr 7-Adult
-



Want a presentation? Contact us if you'd like a presentation for your group, class or community at communitypolicing@rmwb.ca or call 780-788-4040 and ask for the Community Policing Coordinator.

SAPRAE CREEK ESTATES SEWER PROGRAM

The 2024 construction season has wrapped up, but you can still **get your Rural Water and Sewer Services (RWSS) application started over the winter**. This will help ensure your home is ready to start being connected next construction season and you take advantage of the significant savings offered through the RWSS program.

214 homes in Saprae Creek Estates have already connected to piped sewer services through the RWSS program.

The end of next construction season is the deadline to connect your home

The Municipality will cover a large portion of the cost to connect your home to piped sewer services up to the end of the 2025 construction season for Saprae Creek Estates.

After this deadline, you will be responsible for the full connection cost, which can be anywhere between \$40,000 to \$110,000 as opposed to the lower cost of \$10,000 with 0% interest available now. The full cost of trucked sewer pickups will also be your responsibility if your home isn't connected by the deadline.

How do I start my application over the winter?

- Review the RWSS Homeowners Guide and important information at rmwb.ca/rwss.
- Contact a certified contractor to discuss what the work connecting your home will entail. A contractor quote must be submitted in the spring to the Municipality for approval as part of your application. While quotes won't be approved over the winter, contractors can still prepare everything so work can begin next construction season. A list of certified contractors is available on the RMWB website.
- You're in control of the entire application process, but your contractor can take the lead on everything if you prefer.
- Your Municipal tax and utility accounts must be in good standing. Outstanding balances must be paid before your RWSS application can be approved.


Need help?

Connecting your home to piped water and sewer may seem complicated, but we're here to help guide you through the process. Call 780-743-7000 to learn more, ask questions and get help starting your application.

Find everything you need to know about the Rural Water and Sewer Servicing Program, including more details on how to apply at rmwb.ca/rwss

What will my utility bill look like once I connect to piped sewer services?

Below is an example of what your bi-monthly utility bill will look like once your home is connected to piped sewer services.



**REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY
OF WOOD BUFFALO**

9909 Franklin Avenue, Fort McMurray, AB, T9H 2K4

UTILITY BILL REPRINT

DOE, JOHN

SAPRAE CREEK ESTATES

SRV ADDR: 062-LONG BRIDGE LANE

ACCOUNT#

BILLING PERIOD: 2024/04/30
TO: 2024/06/30
BILLING DATE: 2024/06/30
PENALTY DATE: 2024/07/39

INV #: 5000001

DATE	DESCRIPTION	CODE	READING	CONSUMPTION	AMOUNT
2024/06/30	GARBAGE COLL SAPRAE C	A			66.72
2024/06/30	RURAL WATER AND SEWER	A			65.00
2024/06/30	SEWER CONSUMPTION	A	3311	70	17.64
2024/06/30	FIXED CHARGE SEWER	A			28.86
2024/06/30	WATER CONSUMPTION	A	3311	70	29.96
2024/06/30	FIXED CHARGE WATER	A			56.28
AMOUNT DUE					264.46

Please Note: All charges/payments shown are up to and including the 'Billing To Period' date of this invoice.

Your bill explained

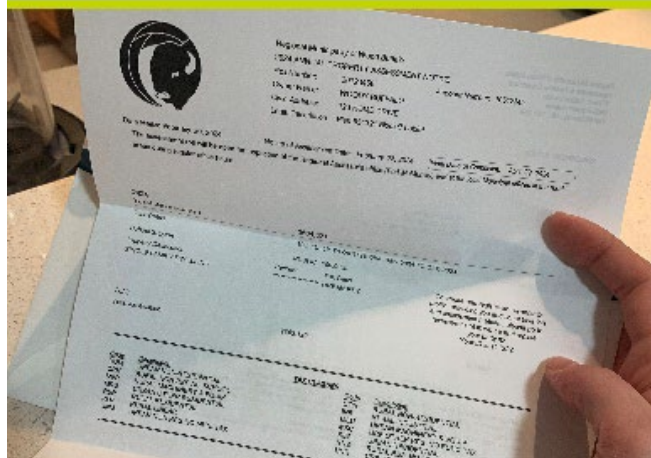
- 1 Includes curbside collection, waste disposal, recycling fees.
- 2 RWSS Program Bi-Monthly Connection Fee
- 3 \$0.63/m3 variable rate - based on the same water consumption, at a reduced rate
- 4 Fixed rate for sewer (\$14.43 per month) x 2 months
- 5 \$1.07 /m3 variable rate - based on water consumption on water meter.
- 6 Fixed rate for water (\$28.14 per month) x 2 months

These are 2024 rates from the Council approved Fees, Rates and Charges Bylaw.
This Bylaw is updated annually and its customary to see increases to utility rates as part of the updates.

Understanding your property assessment

I received my property assessment.

What's next?



Notices were issued by the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo on Feb. 18 to residential and commercial property owners across the region.

Assessment notices contain important information about a property's value and help to ensure each property owner pays their fair share of property taxes in 2025.

For the 2025 taxation year, the property assessments are based on July 1, 2024 market values and physical conditions as of Dec. 31, 2024. Assessments are then used to calculate your annual property tax.

Property tax notices are sent out in May once Council reviews and approves the 2025 Property Tax Rate Bylaw. You can also access information about your property assessment using the **online search tool** on the municipal website.

File an appeal by April 28

After speaking with an assessor, property owners who still have concerns with their assessment may file an appeal with the Assessment Review Board before the April 28 deadline. For more information on how to file an appeal, visit rmwb.ca/assessments.

Request for Information (RFI) - Watch your mail in March

Some residents will also be receiving a RFI notice in the mail. This information helps the RMWB to collect information about your property so the Assessment office can calculate a fair and equitable market values assessment. The RFI cycles through different neighbourhoods, so you won't receive one every year for the same property.

Learn more about assessments and property taxes at rmwb.ca/taxes.

For further information or questions, please contact Pulse at 780-743-7000 or online at rmwb.ca/pulse.

Bring your creative vision to life in the region



The **Arts, Culture and Heritage Grant** provides **up to \$5,000** for projects that create, inspire and preserve within the cultural landscape of the region.

Apply early!

Individuals and groups may apply for a maximum of \$5,000. The deadline for grant applications is Dec. 31, 2025 at 4:30 p.m. MST or until the total \$50,000 funding is exhausted, whichever comes first.

Apply early through the Community Investment Program (CIP) Grant Portal as funding is awarded in order of completed applications received.

What projects are eligible?

Projects must align with one or more [Wood Buffalo Culture Plan](#) priorities. The eligibility list varies and ranges from performing arts to heritage restoration to landscape design.

Projects that have received grant support in previous years include:

- **Palette Town**, a video showcasing the potential for art in Wood Buffalo.
- **Rock the Rails**, an annual skateboard and BMX competition that also features local musical acts.
- **Lavender Skies: Exploring Queer Creativity in Wood Buffalo**, a local art show at the Kirschner Family Community Art Gallery at MacDonald Island Park.

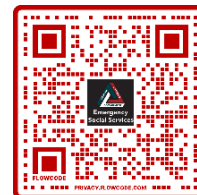
Get started today by visiting rmwb.ca/CIP.

Emergency Social Services (ESS)

ESS provides individuals or families with supports when they are displaced due to an emergency. Registration centres or other evacuation sites are set up to register evacuees and provide immediate basic needs. This support is available to provide a safe place for evacuees to plan their next steps as they transition to recovery.

Registration centres may provide the following services:

- Food/water
- Shelter
- Clothing
- First Aid/emotional support
- Family reunification
- Animal care and rescue assistance



To learn more about ESS, or to join the ESS Team, scan the QR code below:

VPR

Emergencies happen. If you are a vulnerable person living in the region, you may be at greater risk during an emergency.



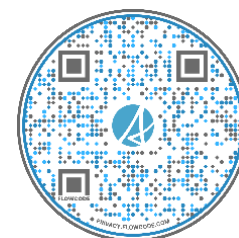
**Vulnerable
Persons
Registry**

The Vulnerable Persons Registry (VPR) is a service that improves the safety of vulnerable residents living at home.

This is done by communicating directly with registrants during emergencies and by sharing key information to first responders about individuals on the VPR. Click [here](#) to find out more about the VPR.

MAERS

The MyAlberta Emergency Registration System is available to all residents of Alberta as a tool to assist during an evacuation or emergency. Albertans can register themselves and their family members in advance of an emergency using their MyAlberta Digital ID. Click [here](#) or scan below to pre-register today.



NOTICE TO RURAL RESIDENTS

Water and septic service reminders

To allow water and septic delivery trucks access and to provide continuous service for all residents, please follow to the requirements below:

- 1) **Basement water tanks or water tanks that are not visible:** All customers must have their volume posted in a visible place so water delivery contractor can see proper date and amount of water required (displayed in litres).
- 2) **Hanging branches and wires on driveways:** Make sure that delivery vehicles have a minimum 15 feet of clearance. All low hanging branches must be trimmed to prevent damage to trucks, and low hanging wires are to be raised.
- 3) **Provide clear access:** All vehicles/obstacles must be removed on driveways during the delivery schedule and the ensure the water delivery vehicle is able to drive within **15.24 meters** of the delivery point for water.
- 4) **Ensure pets are contained:** For the safety of contractors and pets, all dogs are to be tied up or inside your home, for service provider to access your property.
- 5) **Keep access points clear of snow and ice:** During winter months, keep driveways and pathways to water and septic hook ups, clear of snow and ice and thaw receivers and caps for hose access.
- 6) **Maintain cam-lock/hoses:** The winterization and maintenance of the cam-lock fitting and hoses is the responsibility of the home-owner. All cam-locks and hoses are to be drained and water to be removed to prevent freezing and breakage of cam-lock.
- 7) **Safety of septic tanks:** All septic tanks will be equipped with a “stinger” and an approved lid on the tank.
- 8) **Driveways:** If your driveway is soft (spring thaw), it is the homeowner’s responsibility to contact the RMWB to suspend delivery or to add a proper hose with the required cam-lock and extend down driveway to location of delivery.

For more information:

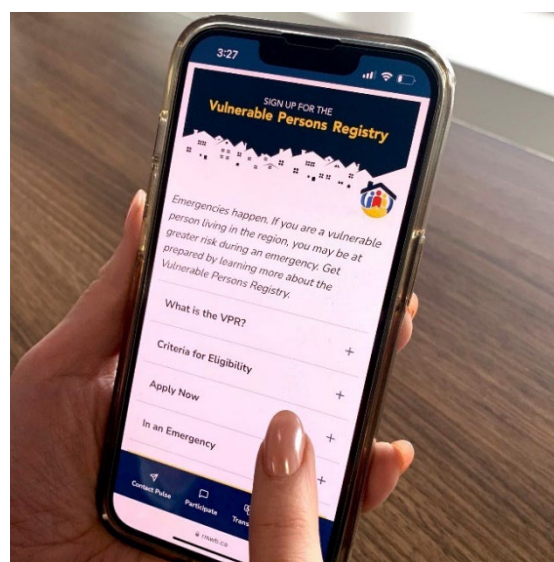
refer to the Water Utilities Management Bylaw (Bylaw No. 07/035) Part X

If you have questions or require any additional information, call the Pulse Line at 780-743-7000



Emergencies happen. If you are a vulnerable person living in the region, you may be at greater risk.

Apply to be added to the Vulnerable Persons Registry (VPR) - a free, voluntary and confidential service for residents living at home who would be at greater risk during emergencies.



To sign up or learn more visit – rmwb.ca/vpr

Step up in an emergency

Be the Helping Hand When It Matters Most -

*Volunteer with the
Emergency Social Services
team*

Join a team that helps
residents during an
emergency or disaster.

- Build your knowledge, confidence, and experience.
- No experience required. Training will be provided.



RMWB.ca/ESSVolunteer

For more information call:

- [780-743-7000](tel:780-743-7000)
- Toll Free [1-800-973-9663](tel:1-800-973-9663)



What we do:

Emergency Social Services helps people during large emergencies or incidents in the Municipality.

Who we are:

Volunteers, community partners, and municipal employees who work together under the Emergency Management Branch of Regional Emergency Services.



Walking Safety Tips



Walk Facing Traffic: If there is no sidewalk and you must walk on the side of the road, choose the side where you are facing oncoming traffic. This gives you the best chance to see traffic approaching closest to you and take evasive action if necessary.

Cross Safely: Look both ways before crossing any street. Make eye contact with any drivers who may be turning. Give them a wave. Make sure they see you.

Walk Single File: Unless you are on a sidewalk separate from the road, you should walk single file. This is especially important on a road with lots of curves. While it can be enjoyable to walk down the road two or three abreast chatting merrily, drivers don't expect it.

Stay aware of bikes and runners: Share the road and path with bikes and runners. Bike riders should alert you when approaching from behind with a bike bell or a "passing on the left/right." Listen for them.

Be Visible: Wear bright colors when walking in daytime. When walking at night wear light-colored clothing and reflective clothing or reflective vest to be visible.

Hang Up and Eyes Up: Chatting or texting while walking is as dangerous as doing that while driving. You are distracted and not as aware of your environment. You are less likely to recognize traffic danger, passing joggers and bikers or tripping hazards. Potential criminals can also see you as a distracted easy target.

When walking your pet: keep your pet on the side away from traffic so that they don't accidentally dart into the roadway.



IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION





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

To submit information to the newsletter please email:

Info.rr@rmwb.ca

Deadline for the July Newsletter submissions:

JUNE 25TH, 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Seniors Week	2	3 ASRMWB Program Food Drive – Sobey's Downtown	4 Punk Rock Music Bingo @ Canadian Brewhouse 7pm-10pm	5 Seniors week car show @ rotary house 12-3	6 Rock the Rails: The Flatliners 4:00pm 	7 Metis Fest @mac island 11:00am- 7:30pm
8 Metis Fest @mac island 11:00am- 7:30pm	9	10 Giants vs Edmonton Prospects @ Legacy Dodge Field 7:00pm	11 Giants vs Edmonton Prospects @ Legacy Dodge Field 7:00pm	12 Europa Super Circus @Centerfire place	13 Europa Super Circus @Centerfire place 	14 Europa Super Circus @Centerfire place
15 Fort City Car show 10:00am- 4:00pm	16	17	18	19	20 Fort McMurray SPCA Garage Sale Fort McMurray SPCA 	21
22	23	24	25	26	27 	28 9th Annual Pride Festival Fort McMurray Heritage Shipyards 12:00-5:00pm
29	30 Canada Day at MacDonald Island Park				F	