



Your County in Touch

Issue No. 57, April 20, 2016

Permanent dialysis unit announced by Ministry of Health



The Deputy Premier and Minister of Health, Sarah Hoffman, visited Lac La Biche County on March 30, 2016 to announce that a new, permanent dialysis unit will be constructed in the William J. Cadzow Health Centre. Design for the unit will start this spring. Here, Minister Hoffman and County Council pose for a photo after a meeting where they discussed health services in the County.

National Volunteer Week

Lac La Biche County celebrated its volunteers at the annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon on April 11, 2016.

Every year in January, the County's Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) department sends out nomination forms to community groups, asking them to nominate volunteers who go over and above the call of duty serving their community.

This year 50 stand-out volunteers were nominated for recognition. Forty volunteers attended the luncheon and received certificates recognizing their work and accomplishments in the community.

"Volunteers are the backbone of our community," said County Mayor, Omer Moghrabi. "So many of our local events and programs are made possible by the hard work of our volunteers. I want to thank each and every resident who volunteers their time to give back to our community."

Want to volunteer your time to a good cause? Contact the County's FCSS department to find out about volunteering opportunities in the County. Call Lise Rouleau at 780-623-6726 for more information.

For many years, Lac La Biche County Council has been lobbying the Alberta government to move dialysis treatment from the bus outside the hospital into the William J. Cadzow Health Centre.

On March 30, the Deputy Premier and Minister of Health, Sarah Hoffman, visited Lac La Biche to announce the upcoming construction of a permanent, six-station dialysis unit at the Lac La Biche hospital.

"We are extremely pleased that Alberta Health Services is bringing a much-needed, essential medical service to Lac La Biche County, which will also serve our

surrounding First Nation communities and Metis Settlements. We appreciate Alberta Health listening and responding to the needs of our community," said Mayor Omer Moghrabi on behalf of County Council.

The province has allocated \$3 million for the project. There will be six stations in the unit, increasing patient capacity from 10 to 12.

Design for the unit will begin this spring with construction to follow. The unit is expected to start accepting patients in early 2018.

Tree seedlings available for purchase

Looking to beautify your yard or create a shelterbelt?

The County's Agricultural department will be offering one-year old tree seedlings for sale in bundles of five, 10 or 15, depending on the species. This year, species include Purple Lilac, Jack Pine, Paper Birch, Smoky Saskatoon, Siberian Larch, Swedish Aspen and White Spruce.

The order form is available online. Download the form, fill it out and then scan and email it back to kyle.beniuk@laclabichcounty.com; mail it to Box 1679, Lac La Biche, AB, T0A 2C0; or drop it off at County Centre (13422 Highway 881, Lac La Biche).

Landfill summer hours start May 1

Expanded summer hours will commence at the County's landfills and transfer stations starting May 1.

Find the schedule online at laclabichcounty.com or contact Alanna Okrusko at 780-623-6739. The schedule is also located in the County's Green Initiatives calendar.

Free community garden open to applicants

The County's Agricultural department will be offering plots to residents at the Alexander Hamilton Park Community Garden again this year. Plots are given on a first-come, first-served basis.

Applications will be available at laclabichcounty.com April 25 or contact Alanna Okrusko at 780-623-6739.

Municipal census begins May 11, 2016

Starting May 11 and continuing to June 30, 2016, the County will conduct a municipal census. Property owners will receive a unique pin number in the mail, which they'll use to access the survey online. Most property owners that do not fill out the questionnaire online will be visited in-person by an enumerator, who will guide them through the process. Residences that complete the census online before June 1 will not be visited.

You will be asked how many people live in your household, the type of dwelling you reside in, and the age range and gender of the people under your roof. In most cases, the survey will only take a few minutes to complete. All responses will be kept confidential.

The census will ensure that the County's population information is accurate, reflecting the actual number of people depending on services in our region. Up-to-date information allows the County to plan services and apply for

per capita grants. School boards, health care providers, businesses, and other interested parties may also use the information for planning purposes.

The municipal census is distinct from the federal census, despite both being conducted at similar times. The municipal census, unlike the federal census, will count our shadow population. Shadow population includes temporary County residents employed by an industrial or commercial establishment for a minimum of 30 days within the census year. Because temporary residents also access local municipal services and health care, we must plan to meet their needs as well.

A census report with results will be available by the end of August 2016.

For more information, contact the census coordination team at 780-623-6772 or census@laclabichcounty.com. You can also read our census FAQ on laclabichcounty.com.

Budget approved for 2016, major projects upcoming

County Council approved the 2016 municipal operating and capital budget on March 22, 2016. Council's focus this year was to reduce the County's budget and streamline the organization while preserving services to residents.

"The current economic climate was one of the factors Council considered when deliberating the County's 2016 budget. We want to continue to address the County's infrastructure needs and to provide quality services to residents, while being fiscally responsible," said Mayor Omer Moghrabi. "Administration did an admirable job finding efficiencies and preparing the 2016 budget to meet Council's expectations."

The County's 2016 operating budget expenditures are set at \$48,185,954

with capital budget expenditures of \$49,974,387.

Numerous capital projects are slated to start in 2016. Nipewon Road in Lac La Biche will be paved and curbs and gutters installed. The Old Trail connecting Lac La Biche and Plamondon will be graded and paved. Tower Road and a number of roads in Lakeview and Holowachuk Estates will also be paved. The County's Water Treatment Plant will receive upgrades to reduce the incidence of seasonal water shortages, while water and sewer lines that need updating will be replaced.

The next *inTouch* newsletter will include detailed information on the 2016 budget and an in-depth look at some of the County's capital projects.

Clean Sweep program headed for County streets

Every May, the Clean Sweep program brings residents, local organizations and County staff together to spring clean our community.

Community Spring Clean Up

This year, the County and Big Dog will be hosting our annual Community Spring Clean Up on Saturday May 14, 2016. Bring your friends and family to the Kinsmen Hall at 9 a.m. Volunteers will be broken into groups and given sections of the hamlet to clean up the litter left behind by winter snow. Come back to the Kinsmen Hall at noon for a free BBQ and door prizes.

Large Item Pickup

From May 9 to 19, Lac La Biche County will be picking up appliances, furniture and other large items free of charge in the hamlets of Lac La Biche and

Plamondon. To find out pick-up dates in your area, check out the County's *Green Initiatives* calendar, the infocard being sent in the mail or at laclabichecounty.com.

Only clean, neatly-placed items will be picked up, including large electronics, appliances and furniture. Check out the infocard in your mailbox or laclabichecounty.com for details on eligible items.

Residents who do not live in the hamlets can drop off their large items free of charge between May 9 and 19 at local landfills or transfer stations. (Tipping fees still apply for industrial, commercial or institutional items.)

Contact the County's Environmental Services department with any questions about the program at 780-623-6739.

Speaking of clean sweeps, street sweeping is underway



Now that warmer temperatures are here, the County's Transportation Services department is out in force doing spring road maintenance.

Roughly 30 tonnes of road repair material has been used fixing winter potholes on County roads.

The County's two street sweepers, seen above, have been active since temperatures rose above freezing. To date, 25 truckloads of winter sand and dirt have been removed from streets in the hamlets.

Upcoming youth workshops

Lac La Biche County Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) organizes workshops for youth throughout the year, teaching pre-teens and teens leadership and responsibility.



On April 22 from 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm, FCSS will be offering a Home Alone course, a program created by the Canada Safety Council. Participants aged 11 to 15 will learn the necessary skills to be safe and responsible when home alone. They'll also learn what to do and who to contact in the event of an emergency.

The course will happen at the Bold Center, and costs \$20 per participant.

On April 23 from 9 am to 4 pm, participants aged 12 to 15 will take a babysitting course. They'll get up-to-date information about childcare - including supervision, nutrition, and safety - becoming a qualified babysitter by the course's end.

The course also happens at the Bold Center and will cost \$50 per participant. Though the babysitting course is now full, you may choose to add your child to a waiting list. Organizers will let you know if space becomes available.

For more information about either of these workshops, contact FCSS at 780-623-6763 or communityoutreach@laclabichecounty.com. Keep an eye out for other youth programs and activities, including circus, face painting, and leadership camps in the summer.

Your County in Touch is produced by Lac La Biche County and available to every resident.

An electronic version of this newsletter is available. All you need to do is call 780-623-1747 or provide your e-mail address to intouch@laclabichedcounty.com.

Use the same contact information for any address changes, additional copies or to unsubscribe.

Dates to Remember

April 22, 2016

Home Alone course for children from 6:30 pm to 9 pm. Call 780-623-6763 for more information.

April 23, 2016

Babysitting course for pre-teens and teens from 9 am to 4 pm. Call 780-623-6763 for more information.

May 9 to 19, 2016

Large Item Pickup. See page 3.

May 11, 2016

Municipal census begins. See page 2 for more details.

May 15, 2016

Community Spring Clean Up. See page 3.

Lac La Biche County
Box 1679
Lac La Biche, AB T0A 2C0



Laser tag coming to the Bold Center in May, fitness class drop-ins for spring session available

Laser Tag

Laser tag is coming to the Bold Center this May for both kids and adults alike!

It will be \$5 per person per 10 minute game, and if you play multiple games, a discount will apply. Groups of 10 players or less will cost \$215 per hour, and groups of 11 to 18 players will be \$247 per hour. Patrons will also have the option of buying a 2-hour play pass, and special school and youth group rates will be available.

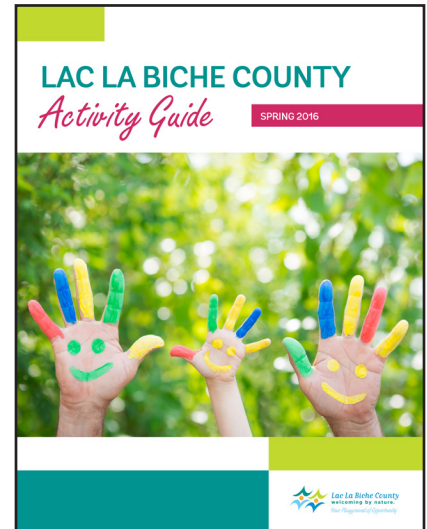
Stay tuned to the Bold Center's Facebook page for more details.

Fitness Class Drop-Ins

Try a class for an evening without the commitment! Most fitness classes offered during the Bold Center's spring selection sessions are open to drop-ins, including the following:

- Cross Fire Cross-Fit: Mondays and Wednesdays, 12:15 to 12:45 pm
- Free 50+ Walk-On: Mondays and Wednesdays, 9 to 10:30 am
- Fusion Amped: Mondays and Wednesdays, 6:30 to 7:30 pm
- Kickbox Bootcamp: Mondays and Wednesdays, 5 to 6 pm
- Zumba Circuit: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10 to 11 am

- Zumba Glutes: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 5 to 6 pm
- Morning Mixed Yoga: Mondays and Wednesdays, 9:15 to 10:15 am
- Evening Mixed Yoga: Mondays and Wednesdays, 7:45 to 8:45 pm
- Vinyasa Power Flow: Tuesdays, 6:45 to 7:45 pm (women only)
- Hatha Flow Yoga: Thursdays, 6:45 to 7:45 pm (women only)



Check out the Spring 2016 Activity Guide (pictured above), available at the Bold Center or at boldcenter.ca, for a full list of fitness classes. Call 780-623-3829 for more information.