

Morinville adapts snow-clearing policies based on resident feedback

By Colin Smith

Morinville is changing the way it does snow clearing at least in part due to residents making their views known.

At its regular meeting on Tuesday, January 9, the council approved an amended snow and ice control policy that lowers the threshold at which snow clearing begins on residential roadways from an accumulation of 15 centimetres to 12 centimetres.

The administration recommended the service level change to the council at a meeting in May 2023, and it was incorporated into this year's budget.

According to Infrastructure Services Manager Jordan Betteridge, the cost of the move will be about \$30,000.

The additional cost will be mainly due to paying for additional

contracted trucking hours to work through more snow clearings.

This amendment reverses the direction of Morinville snow clearance policies, which went from a five-centimetre threshold in 2013 to a 5-10 centimetre threshold and then to 15 centimetres in 2020.

Betteridge said the past moves were driven by financial considerations, with the rise to 15 centimetres as a cost-control measure following an above-average snowfall season.

A survey done last March to gain feedback from residents about their satisfaction with the snow program received more than 500 responses.

Of the survey respondents, 67 per cent supported a higher service level, with clearing beginning at less snow accumulation.

A 12-centimetre threshold



A reduction from 15cm down to 12cm is the official standard for snow removal after Council unanimously approved increasing service levels in its Snow and Ice Policy.

was opted for by 66% of those who wanted a higher service level, while 34% favoured a threshold of 10 centimetres.

The survey included the costs of improved service, based on an average

snowfall, of \$33,000 for a 12-centimetre threshold and \$74,000 for a 10-centimetre threshold.

At Tuesday's meeting, Councillor Scott Richardson asked Betteridge if the snow clearance threshold

had been chosen because of the public engagement that took place.

Betteridge affirmed that the engagement was a factor.

Continued on page 6



Morinville Fire Chief Brad Boddez and his team are currently recruiting for an additional six firefighters. Although recruitment is year-round, February 28 is the deadline for consideration for the current intake. - Stephen Dafoe Photo

Morinville Fire Department recruiting additional members

By Stephen Dafoe

Although the Morinville Fire Department accepts applications year-round, Wednesday, February 28, is the deadline for consideration for this year's class of recruits to be paid-on-call firefighters.

Morinville Fire Chief Brad Boddez said the Department has 39 strong,

competent members. They are looking to add six recruits to the organization.

"Being a paid-on-call firefighter in your community is a gratifying job. It teaches you new and exciting skills that you can utilize in your own experiences," Chief Boddez said.

"The camaraderie you build with fellow brothers and sisters in the fire

department can last a lifetime. It's a chance to give back to your community and get so much in return."

To be considered for one of the six open positions, applicants must be at least 18, reside within Morinville town limits, hold a high school diploma

Continued on page 2



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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Morinville Fire Department recruiting additional members

or equivalent, and possess a valid Class 5 Alberta driver's license. However, a Class 3 or higher and air brake endorsement is considered an asset. Additionally, successful applicants must provide a satisfactory Vulnerable Records check and Driver's Abstract.

The Department is looking for motivated firefighters with well-developed interpersonal and team skills, the ability to operate effectively in emergencies, and a strong work ethic.

As firefighting is a taxing occupation, good physical fitness is necessary, and physicals occur during the first week of March.

Tests are completed while wearing 22 kilograms (approximately 50 pounds) of firefighting personal protective equipment, including helmet, flash-hood, gloves, pants, boots, jacket and self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA). Although applicants do not breathe from the SCBA, they must carry it.

The highest-ranked applicants who pass the test will advance to the next stage of the recruitment process. Interviews for successful fitness candidates will take place in the second week of March.

Training for successful paid-on-call firefighters is provided and comprehensive.

"We have a specific 80-hour recruit training program for our Department, delivered by NFPA-certified instructors

and conducted over three months for all new recruits," Boddez said. "Recruits must complete this training before getting to respond to calls."

Those interested in applying can do so online at <https://forms.morinville.ca/CIS/MFD-Firefighter-Application-Form>. Applications can also be dropped off at the Don Found Fire Station during regular business hours, Monday to Friday, between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Further details on requirements, including testing, is available at <https://www.morinville.ca/en/living-here/firefighter-recruitment.aspx>.



Bunker gear awaits the 2024 crop of recruits at the Morinville Fire Department. Deadline for this year's recruits is February 28. - Stephen Dafoe Photo

SUDOKU

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SEE SOLUTIONS PAGE 5 LEVEL: INTERMEDIATE

Fun By The Numbers: Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works: Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!



A NUT FLIES OFF THE WHEEL.



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FINAL DEADLINE MARCH 21, 2024

starslottery.ca
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Draw: March 28, 2024. Licence 665859. Tickets must be purchased in Alberta. Must be 18+ to purchase. Please play responsibly.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND CLAIMANTS

Estate of **Linda Mae Lee** who died on **January 16, 2021**

If you have a claim against this Estate, you must file your claim by March 8, 2024.

with **Andrew Lawson**
at PUTNAM LAW LLP
Barristers & Solicitors
9702 - 100 Street
Morinville, Alberta T8R 1G3

If you do not file by the date set out above, the Estate property can lawfully be distributed without regard to any claim you may have.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND CLAIMANTS

Estate of **Melvin Ronald Clark** who died on **July 26, 2022**

If you have a claim against this Estate, you must file your claim by February 24, 2024.

with **Andrew Lawson**
at PUTNAM LAW LLP
Barristers & Solicitors
9702 - 100 Street
Morinville, Alberta T8R 1G3

If you do not file by the date set out above, the Estate property can lawfully be distributed without regard to any claim you may have.

REDUCE REUSE RECYCLE



Thinking of planting a shelterbelt?

Sign up for Sturgeon County's

Shelterbelt Workshop

Date: January 25, 2024 from 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Location: Morinville Rendez-vous Centre

Cost: FREE!

What will you learn?

- Planting and establishing a shelterbelt
- Customizing a shelterbelt that works for you
- Problem solving

Sign-up online today

SturgeonCounty.ca/tree-program



Environmental Farm Plan Workshop

Sturgeon County is hosting a free, one-day event for producers who want to create (or renew) an Environmental Farm Plan (EFP).

The EFP is a voluntary, whole farm, self-assessment tool that helps producers identify their environmental risks and develop plans to mitigate those risks.

Producers are required to have an EFP completion letter dated within the last 10 years of the date of application to be eligible for cost-share funding with the On-Farm Stewardship programs of the Canadian Agriculture Partnership.

A laptop or tablet is required. A light lunch will be provided.

Tuesday, February 13, 2024
9:00 a.m. - Noon

9613 100 Street, Morinville
Register by Feb. 12 on www.eventbrite.ca



www.sturgeoncounty.ca



Sturgeon County's 100 Year Farm Family Award recognizes families who have lived and farmed in the County for 100 years or more.

If you meet the following criteria, your family may qualify for this award!

- Your family has owned the land for at least one hundred consecutive years, which can be demonstrated through documentation and records of ownership.
- You are a direct descendant of the homesteader.
- Your family is currently farming the land.
- You, or another direct descendant of the original homesteader, still reside on the parcel of land.

Applications can be submitted with ownership records and documentation via:

Online: www.sturgeoncounty.ca/farmfamily

For more information, or assistance with submitting an application, please visit: www.sturgeoncounty.ca/AgAwards, or call 780-939-8349.

The deadline for application submissions is Friday, March 22, 2024.

February Meetings and Important Dates

9613 100 Street, Morinville, AB T8R 1L9
County Centre Office
Ph: 780-939-4321
Toll Free: 1-866-939-9303
Emergency After Hours: 780-939-4321

Meeting schedule is subject to change. Members of the public are welcome to observe or listen in. For teleconference details and links to the livestream, click on the meetings notice in the following locations:

- Council Meetings:** SturgeonCounty.ca/CouncilMeetings
- Board and Committee Meetings:** SturgeonCounty.ca/Boards
- Public Hearings:** SturgeonCounty.ca/Notice

| | | |
|--|----------------|---------------|
| Subdivision and Development Appeal Board | Feb. 6 | 2:00 PM |
| ALUS Partnership Advisory Committee (PAC) | Feb. 7 | 9:00 AM |
| Capital Committee | Feb. 8 | 1:30 PM |
| Regular Council followed by Committee of the Whole | Feb. 13 | 9:00 AM |
| Family Day | Feb. 19 | Closed |
| Subdivision and Development Appeal Board | Feb. 20 | 2:00 PM |
| Agricultural Service Board | Feb. 21 | 9:00 AM |
| Regular Council followed by Committee of the Whole | Feb. 27 | 9:00 AM |
| Capital Committee | Feb. 29 | 9:00 AM |

Find a Local Community Event!
View upcoming events, or add a community event to the Sturgeon County Event Calendar.
www.sturgeoncounty.ca/events

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NEWS • EVENTS • CLOSURE NOTICES & MORE





Morinville Community Library Program Coordinator Jessica Sheppard shows some of the materials that will be used at the Winter Reading Program drop in craft event on February 7 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. The Library's Winter Reading Program is underway and wraps up on February 28. More details are available at MorinvilleLibrary.ca. - **Stephen Dafeo Photo**



Musée Morinville Museum Attendant Donna Garrett shows the Morinville Centennial Quilt, which was given to the community in 2011 during Morinville's 100th anniversary as a town. Volunteers worked for several months on its 40 different blocks, each depicting various aspects of Morinville's history. The Town initially displayed the quilt at the Morinville Community Cultural Centre before it was given a home at the museum. - **Stephen Dafeo Photo**

CROSSWORD

SEE SOLUTIONS PAGE 5

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Winged nut
- 7. __ Humbug! 1
- 0. One who sets apart
- 12. Circle above a saint's head
- 13. Unpleasantly loud and harsh
- 14. Expressed pleasure
- 15. Feminine given name
- 16. Company of badgers
- 17. Popular Dodge pickup truck
- 18. Witty sayings
- 19. Leader
- 21. Autonomic nervous system
- 22. Premolar
- 27. Atomic #28
- 28. Holiday decorative item
- 33. Exclamation of surprise
- 34. Rusk or cracker
- 36. Returned material authorization (abbr.)
- 37. Scottish or Irish Gaelic language
- 38. Eat

- 39. Marxist economics theory (abbr.)
- 40. Ceases to exist
- 41. Male Arabic name
- 44. Series of ridges on an organ wall
- 45. Places where bees are kept
- 48. One-time Yankees sensation Kevin
- 49. Church office
- 50. Single lens reflex
- 51. Pieces of fibrous tissue

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Classify
- 2. Dismounted
- 3. Produced
- 4. Consumed

- 5. Director Howard
- 6. The products of human creativity
- 7. Thai monetary units
- 8. Away from wind
- 9. Builder's trough
- 10. Relating to Islam
- 11. It can sometimes ache
- 12. Small quantities (Scot.)
- 14. Poisonous plant
- 17. Laugh at
- 18. Vogul
- 20. C. European river
- 23. Type of cat
- 24. Exclamation of disgust
- 25. Stephen King novel
- 26. Without armies
- 29. Expression of sympathy

- 30. Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
- 31. Previously
- 32. Illegal drug
- 35. Kiloelectronvolt
- 36. Large, flightless birds
- 38. For smoking
- 40. Binary
- 41. Competition
- 42. Mark resembling an arrow
- 43. Containers
- 44. Root mean square (abbr.)
- 45. Commercials
- 46. I.M. __, architect
- 47. 007's creator

PUBLIC HEARING – Bylaw 1632/23
Amendment to Land Use Bylaw 1385/17

Sturgeon County Council requests public input on proposed Bylaw 1632/23.

Sturgeon County is proposing updates to the Land Use Bylaw in response to public, Council and developer input. The changes include updates for clarity and efficiency, which will help the County provide improved customer service.

[View the proposed bylaw at sturgeoncounty.ca/Hearing1632](http://sturgeoncounty.ca/Hearing1632)

Public Hearing details

The Public Hearing will be held in person and via videoconference on:

Tuesday, January 30 at 1:30 p.m. (or as soon as practical thereafter)
Sturgeon County Council Chambers (9613 100 St. in Morinville)

You can view the hearing online at sturgeoncounty.ca/CouncilMeetings

Questions? Contact us!

Tyler McNab
Planning & Development Services
780-939-8342
tmcnab@sturgeoncounty.ca

Proposed updates include the following:

- Adding definitions for terminology included in the Land Use Bylaw.
- Adding information to clarify the bylaw, such as noting that development must align with approved land use plans, adding that development decisions will be posted to the County website, and clarifying hazardous lands regulations.
- Changing site grading from a permitted use to a discretionary use on an interim basis while administration reviews site grading policy and regulations. This change means adjacent landowners are notified of proposed developments and have an opportunity to provide feedback.
- Requiring event venue operators to be onsite during events.
- Making amendments that improve efficiency, including allowing a dimensional tolerance of constructed buildings, allowing minor revisions to issued permits, and providing greater variance authority to avoid automatic refusal of applications.
- Providing clarity about when a proposed development is referred to Canadian Forces Base Edmonton for input.

A bylaw is needed to amend the existing Land Use Bylaw, and a public hearing must be held.

Important information about Public Hearings

Requirements for speakers

All speakers have five minutes to speak and are encouraged to provide a written copy of their submission before the Public Hearing.

Speaking in person

To speak at the Public Hearing in person, contact Legislative Services at **780-939-8277** or **780-939-1377** to pre-register.

Speaking via videoconference

To speak at the Public Hearing via videoconference, you **must** register by January 29 at 1:30 p.m. by contacting Legislative Services at **780-939-8277** or **780-939-1377**. This ensures you receive instructions to access the videoconference.

Written submissions

Email your written submission to Legislative Services at legislativeservices@sturgeoncounty.ca. Written submissions are accepted up to the close of the Public Hearing.

If making a written submission, you must include your name, state your interest in the matter (such as a County resident directly impacted by the proposed bylaw), and indicate if you are in favour of or opposed to the proposed bylaw.

Watching the Public Hearing

You can view the Public Hearing in person or online at sturgeoncounty.ca/CouncilMeetings. To view the livestream, click on the meeting date on the calendar, then click on the video link.

SCHOOL NEWS

Gibbons School

In December, our amazing Parent Council put on a pancake breakfast for all of our staff and students. We are extremely grateful for the parents, Town Council members and players from the Gibbons Pioneers who volunteered their time to cook and serve the breakfast. Also, archery club has just started up and we have had a lot of interest. Mr. Hammel is running practices on Thursdays and has the students going to multiple tournaments between now and the beginning of April. It will be very exciting to see how the students learn and improve their skills.



Landing Trail School



Parent Involvement Association (PIA) and the Gibbons Fire Department. The school grounds transformed into a winter wonderland with activities around the gymnasium and playground.

On December 19th, Landing Trail School ushered in the holiday season with its first Winter Carnival, a festive affair made possible through the collaboration of the

Despite the absence of snow, the event brimmed with joy as attendees enjoyed wagon rides, savored hotdogs, and sipped on hot chocolate.

École Notre Dame



In the past week, students from École Notre Dame in Morinville underwent training to transform into super spies as part of this year's Mission Impossible course!

SUDOKU & CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS

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PUBLIC HEARING – Bylaw 1637/23 Amendment to Land Use Bylaw 1385/17

Sturgeon County Council requests public input on proposed Bylaw 1637/23.

The applicant would like to create a natural resource extraction operation on the lands at 21012 Victoria Trail (legal land description: SE-12-57-21 -W4). This land is zoned as AG – Agriculture, which does not allow this type of activity.

Public Hearing details

The Public Hearing will be held in person and via videoconference on:

Tuesday, January 30 at 2 p.m. (or as soon as practical thereafter)

Sturgeon County Council Chambers (9613 100 St. in Morinville)

You can view the hearing online at sturgeoncounty.ca/CouncilMeetings

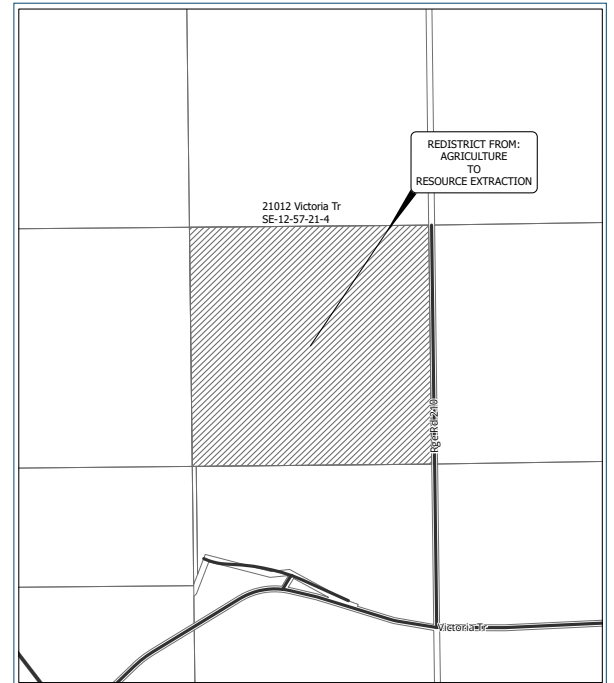
To create a natural resource extraction operation in Sturgeon County, land must be zoned as RE – Resource Extraction. The applicant is requesting the land be rezoned to the RE – Resource Extraction district, which would allow them to apply for a natural resource extraction development permit.

Each time land is rezoned, a bylaw is needed to amend the Land Use Bylaw, and a public hearing must be held.

[View the proposed bylaw at sturgeoncounty.ca/Hearing1637](http://sturgeoncounty.ca/Hearing1637)

Questions? Contact us!

Jonathan Heemskerk
Planning & Development Services
780-939-1398
jheemskerk@sturgeoncounty.ca



Important information about Public Hearings

Requirements for speakers

All speakers have five minutes to speak and are encouraged to provide a written copy of their submission before the Public Hearing.

Speaking in person

To speak at the Public Hearing in person, contact Legislative Services at 780-939-8277 or 780-939-1377 to pre-register.

Speaking via videoconference

To speak at the Public Hearing via videoconference, you **must** register by January 29 at 2 p.m. by contacting Legislative Services at 780-939-8277 or 780-939-1377. This ensures you receive instructions to access the videoconference.

Written submissions

Email your written submission to Legislative Services at legislativeservices@sturgeoncounty.ca. Written submissions are accepted up to the close of the Public Hearing.

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Morinville adapts snow-clearing policies based on resident feedback

He noted that the policy is a balance between what residents desire and what is achievable in budgetary terms.

"I'm glad to see that the decision is based on feedback from residents," said Deputy Mayor Jen Anheliger.

In addition to

increased resident satisfaction, the potential advantages of a higher snow service standard are fewer staff hours spent on resident complaints, less equipment damage resulting from dealing with ice rather than snow, safer roads,

easier ice build-up

management on sidewalks, and reduced impact of spring melt.

Other changes to the policy include a clause allowing for an operational response to extraordinary road conditions, such as the "oatmeal" snow that develops with warm mid-winter

temperatures.

The administration will determine the presence of conditions affecting critical operations based on feedback from emergency services, school buses, postal services and the number of residents/commuter vehicles unable to make headway on the roads.

A further change was the removal of the colour coding from the snow

clearance priority roadways.

and zone system map in a bylaw appendix because the zone colours made it difficult to see the priority

Council members voted unanimously to approve the Snow and Ice Control Policy.



PUBLIC HEARING – Bylaw 1639/23 Amendment to Land Use Bylaw 1385/17

Sturgeon County Council requests public input on proposed Bylaw 1639/23.

Sturgeon County regularly undertakes zoning audits to ensure each parcel has the correct zoning to reflect the use of the land. The County is proposing the following minor housekeeping updates to the Land Use Bylaw, which will change the zoning of three properties to better reflect the use of the land.

Parcel #1

Pt. NE-31-56-26-W4

- Rezoning from AG – Agriculture to PU – Public Utility for the new location of the Alcomdale water truck fill station.

Parcel #2

Lot 1, Block 2, Plan 2122708

- Rezoning a portion of a recently subdivided lot in Carbondale from AG – Agriculture to R3 – Hamlet Unserviced to match the rest of the hamlet.

Parcel #3

Pt. SE-27-56-23-W4

- Rezoning a small portion of land within the Goose Hummock Golf Resort from AG – Agriculture to REC – Recreational to match the rest of the resort area.

Each time land is rezoned, a bylaw is needed to amend the Land Use Bylaw, and a public hearing must be held.

View the proposed bylaw at sturgeoncounty.ca/Hearing1639

Public Hearing details

The Public Hearing will be held in person and via videoconference on:

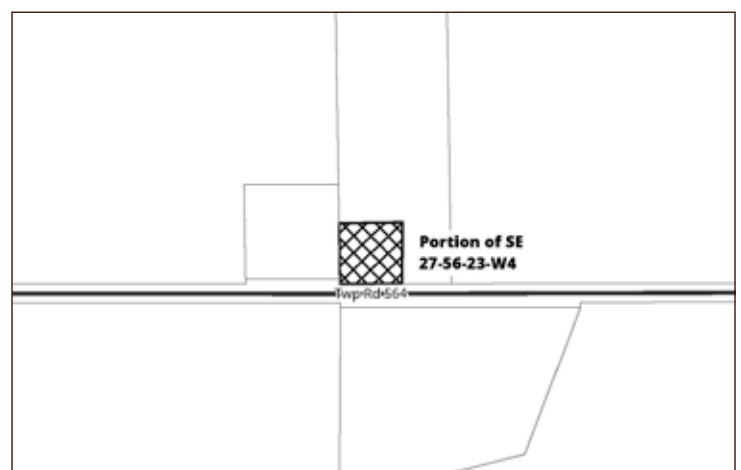
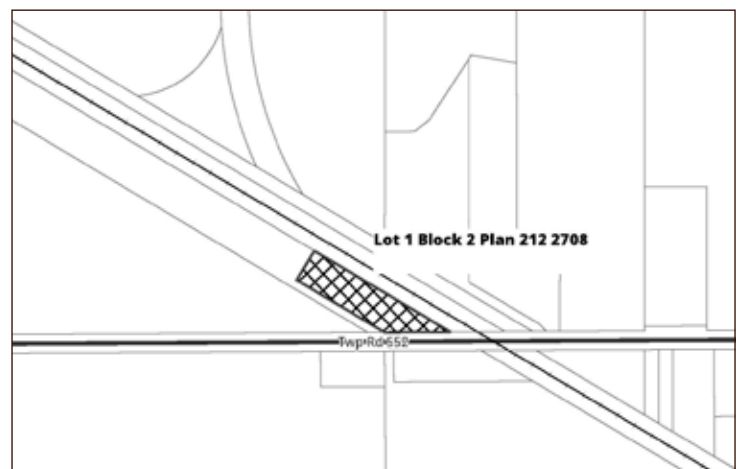
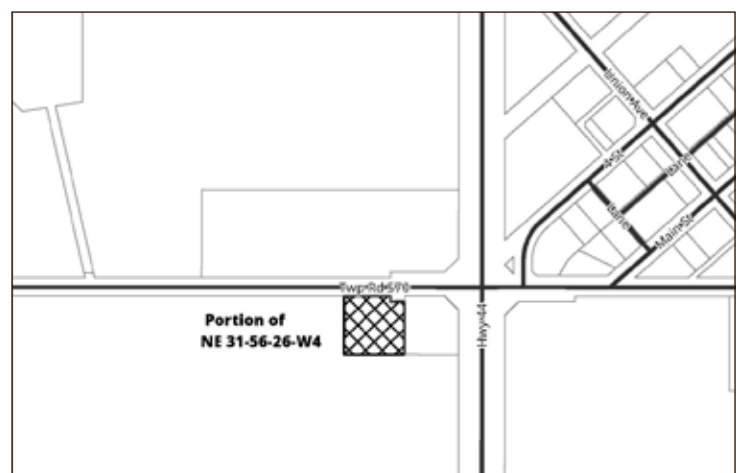
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HOROSCOPE

ARIES

(March 21 - April 20)



Aries, you may have an artistic talent that you haven't explored yet. Events this week may spur you on to try something new because inspiration is high for you right now.

TAURUS

(April 21 - May 21)



Taurus, your household may not agree on which remodeling changes to make. Unless you come up with a compromise, nothing will get done at all.

GEMINI

(May 22 - June 21)



A miscommunication with a loved one could have you trying to make amends soon enough, Gemini. Don't worry, you will easily resolve your differences in time.

CANCER

(June 22 - July 22)



You might be asked for assistance by a close friend having financial troubles. Be careful about lending out money at this juncture because you don't want to cause issues for yourself.

LEO

(July 23 - August 23)



This week you may have a hard time integrating yourself into a group, Leo. Make a concerted effort to be supportive of others. This can be an effective way to get back into the group's good graces.

VIRGO

(August 24 - September 22)



Speaking with friends this week could help to address a number of things you're wrestling with, Virgo. Don't hesitate to lean on this support network.

LIBRA

(September 23 - October 23)



Libra, when you discover a mutual interest with someone you consider a friend, your bond may grow even deeper. Have fun spending time together.

SCORPIO

(October 24 - November 22)



Scorpio, something important to you doesn't seem to be moving along at the pace you had hoped it would. You might have to be a little more patient in this situation.

SAGITTARIUS

(Nov. 23 - Dec. 21)



General malaise may have you wondering if you are sick. It's likely nothing more than stress and fatigue. Keep an eye on symptoms moving forward.

CAPRICORN

(Dec. 22 - Jan. 20)



Capricorn, a romantic encounter you have been counting on may not pan out this week, or it may be less exciting than you imagined. Wait a few days before reevaluating things.

AQUARIUS

(January 21 - February 18)



Don't put all of your trust in new information this week, Aquarius. It is likely unreliable, so take everything that is said with a grain of salt.

PISCES

(February 19 - March 20)



Your imagination is riding high this week, Pisces. Don't hinder it in any way so you can explore all of the creativity that is flowing out of you right now.

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