

MEDICINE HAT NEWS

# HOMETOWN NEWS

## Drug house to get a new look

Renovations to turn residence into space for counselling

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A local counsellor plans to bring new life and spirit into an historic Hill-area home that fell into disrepair and was seized twice by sheriffs to quell drug activity several years ago.

Hat native Sonita Goering offers youth and family counselling services and now has city planning approval to renovate and convert the home at 390 Aberdeen Street into an office.

That follows a public hearing held Monday night to change the zoning of the lot, but also years of controversy and a sale from the estate of the former owner.

"We had been looking for quite a while, and when we walked in I told the realtor, 'this is it,'" said Goering.

"The area has so much history, and (the property); it's exciting to come in and add to that, and to transform it into a place of health and healing and communication is a very big positive."

Workers were gutting the home this week as part of a remodel that will see counselling space available while maintaining the layout of a home, and a spruce up of the weathered exterior is planned for this summer.

On Monday, city council approved a zoning change that will allow an office conversion in the structure that sits between the local office of the Red Cross and a recently built residence near a small commercial strip on Aberdeen Street and Fourth Avenue, S.E. The change, from low-den-



NEWS PHOTO COLLIN GALLANT

The house at 390 Aberdeen Street is being extensively renovated to become a counselling office for children and families after a land zoning change was approved by Medicine Hat city council on Monday night.

sity, was approved by an 8-0 vote, with Mayor Ted Clugston recusing himself as he owns nearby property.

"We purchased it with a lot of thought (regarding) the location," Goering told council members during a public hearing held via conference call on Monday night.

"My intent is to finish my career (in that location) in Medicine Hat."

Goering told the Monday's public hearing adding that she received her counselling certification two years ago after a 19-year career in another aspect of health care.

The home had belonged to Martha Jusilla, one of Medicine Hat's first female real estate agents in the 1960s. After her death at the age of 104 in 2014, the property was left to her son, Billy. After years of high-profile problems at the house, he died of an apparent drug

overdose in 2017.

Likely owing to its reputation and state of the structure, the house remained on the market for several years until Goering purchased it.

"The plan is consider (the ability) to turn it back into a living house if we ever sell," said Goering.

Council members supported the plan, with several stating the change would benefit the neighbourhood.

"I'm excited to get a look at it when you're done with it," said Coun. Darren Hirsch.

She is now expanding her practice, which typically deals with individuals but includes some group sessions, but felt traffic or parking wouldn't be a concern.

Coun. Robert Dumanowski supported the proposal, but asked planning department officials about similar home — to health-office conversions

that occurred in the area around the Medicine Hat Regional Hospital. Over the years, parking there has been a major concern, and new offices have been controversial.

City planning general manager Kent Snyder said the situation around the hospital is quite different considering the employment base and number of visitors.

As well, he said, the mixed-use designation allows for a variety of future uses, such as private, health or government offices, art studios or restaurants, but its location near the neighbourhood commercial strip makes it well-suited.

"We view them as compatible near a residential or neighbourhood commercial property," said Snyder.

Development commissioner Stan Schwartzberger called the plan "a perfect fit" from land use perspective.

## smile OF THE DAY



SUBMITTED PHOTO Connor melts marshmallows for some Rice Krispie squares.

### PHOTO RADAR INFORMATION NOT AVAILABLE

POLICE WILL HAVE PHOTO RADAR SET UP AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS

### WASTE REMOVAL TODAY'S GARBAGE PICKUP WILL BE IN

.....Zone 6

### JACKPOT

Monday's Pick 2.....1, 4  
Monday's Pick 3.....2, 4, 4  
Monday's Pick 4.....9, 3, 2, 9  
In the event of discrepancy, the official list prevails

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## Man with firearm, tent in Police Point Park charged and in custody

Medicine Hat News

A 26-year-old is in custody after police responded to a man roaming Police Point Park with a firearm Monday evening.

Around 6:20 p.m., the Medicine Hat Police Service was notified by an employee of the park's nature centre that two people who were walking out of the park had advised him that they had seen an individual attempting to hide a gun in his jacket.

Arriving on scene, police cordoned off the area and evacuated the park. As they left, other individuals told the cops that they had also seen the suspect in question.

Members of the tactical team used a drone and armoured rescue vehicle to

track the armed person down, whom they found in a tent near the river bed.

Police say he was co-operative and immediately surrendered. A cursory search of the area uncovered loaded and spent ammunition, and illegal substances.

The matter is still under investigation, but a news release from the MHPS says the suspect faces "a number of criminal charges."

As of Tuesday morning, the park was re-opened to the public, but cops remain on scene conducting their investigation.

Anybody who observed the male with the firearm is asked contact police at (403)529-8481.

## Councils adapt by streaming

Medicine Hat News

Local governments across Alberta are conducting business online — broadcasting meetings by video streaming as audiences and even reporters are barred in light of restrictions on the size of public gatherings.

Medicine Hat city council held its first regularly scheduled meeting Monday since pandemic protocols were instituted in late March.

Tuesday, Cypress County's elected representatives were to meet in Dunmore, but also by teleconference, and the proceedings was to be broadcast on the county's website ([cypress.ab.ca](http://cypress.ab.ca)) or the county Facebook page while the public is prohibited from the facility.

"Cypress County is endeavouring to continue business

as usual by utilizing different online meeting platforms with ensuring social distancing and other recommendations," said chief administrator Tarolyn Aaserud.

The town of Redcliff's next council meeting is scheduled to take place on Monday, April 13, and staff are working on a similar approach of providing a video feed on the town website.

"Once the provincial recommendations relax and town hall opens up to the public again we will go back to business as usual," said acting town manager Derrin Thibault.

## Online Poll

TODAY'S QUESTION  
How many times have you gone shopping in the past week?

- Not at all
- 1-2 times
- 3-4 times
- 5 or more

medicinehatnews.com  
YESTERDAY'S RESULTS  
How do you rate the roll-out of COVID-19 measures by the city of Medicine Hat?

Awful (92 votes) 25.8%  
Decent (212 votes) 59.4%  
Fantastic (53 votes) 14.8%

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### 8AM - 4PM SPECIAL SERVICES

Electric Outages.....	403.529.8260
Gas Emergency.....	403.529.8191
Water & Sewer Emergency.....	403.502.8042
After Hours Special Services.....	403.526.2828



### COMMITTEE AND COMMISSION MEETINGS ADJUST TO ALIGN WITH COVID-19 PRACTICES

Medicine Hat – City Standing Committees and Commissions will continue to meet as scheduled, with adjustments in place to ensure alignment with current Alberta Health restrictions related to COVID-19.

A new Ministerial Order allowing municipalities to host meetings electronically to ensure recommended practices from Alberta Health was announced on March 20, 2020.

As per the order, Committee and Commission meetings will be closed to the public but can be viewed online at the City website at: <https://docs.medicinehat.ca/onbaseagendaonline>

Dated at the City of Medicine Hat, in the Province of Alberta, this 8th day of April, 2020.

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## Canadian Lord's Day Association

For the purpose of preserving the sanctity of the Lord's Day (Ex. 20: 8-11)

When the morn shall bid us rise,  
May we feel thy presence near!  
May thy glory meet our eyes  
When we in thy house appear!  
There afford us, Lord, a taste  
Of our everlasting feast.

John Newton

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