

Arena Grand Re-Opening

March 26, 2026

Established: 1965-1966



- 5-6pm Public Skate**
- 6:15pm U5/U7 short game**
- 7pm Opening Ceremonies**
- 7:15pm Alumni and Celebrities Game In Memory and Honor of Tyler Haarstad**



TAKE THE SURVEY ONLINE
 OR COMPLETE THE PAPER COPY IN
 THIS NEWSLETTER

DEADLINE TO SUBMIT: MARCH 12/26

Drop off paper Surveys to Town Office - drop box is available outside business hours OR scan print copies and email to info@townofbentley.ca

CVITP eligibility and required documents



This information sheet outlines the eligibility criteria for an individual to use the Community Volunteer Income Tax Program (CVITP). As well, it provides a list of the most common documents they need to get their income tax and benefit return completed at a CVITP tax clinic.

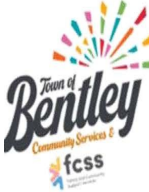
Eligibility	
Modest income	
Community organizations can set limits for CVITP eligibility based on the suggested total family income below or adjust income levels based on their local economic environment, resources and population served.	
Family size (includes an individual or a couple, and their dependants)	Total family income (suggested income level)
1 person	\$40,000
2 people	\$55,000
3 people	\$60,000
4 people	\$65,000
5 people	\$70,000
More than 5 people	\$70,000, plus \$5,000 for each additional person

- Simple tax situation**
- No income, or income from these sources:
- Employment income
 - Pension
 - Registered retirement savings plans (RRSPs)
 - Interest (under \$1,200)
 - Benefits (e.g., Canada Pension Plan, old age security, disability insurance, employment insurance, and social assistance)
 - Scholarships, fellowships, bursaries, or grants

Free tax clinic

File your taxes to get your benefits and credits

If you have a modest income and a simple tax situation, volunteers may be able to do your taxes!



Intake Tax Clinic: March 18/26
Time: 1-3pm
Where: Town Office Seniors Drop In

- Bring in your tax documents.
- Complete the intake form with our staff
- The information will be given to our volunteers to complete your return and e-file your taxes
- You will be notified when to pick up your documents

Go to canada.ca/taxes-help or call 1-800-959-8281 for more information.

If you have questions about the Volunteer Tax Program, contact Community Services 403-748-2160
If you can't make that date, give us a call!

★ NEED HELP AT HOME? ★

Seniors Special Needs Assistance Program

Government of Alberta

♥ Financial support for seniors (65+) living on a limited income

Helping with essential services & **one-time needs** to stay **SAFE, COMFORTABLE & INDEPENDENT** at home.

YOU MAY QUALIFY IF YOU:

- ✓ Are 65 years or older
- ✓ Live in Alberta
- ✓ Have a low to modest income
- ✓ Are enrolled in Seniors Financial Assistance programs

2026 INCOME GUIDELINES

(Based on most recent tax return.)

FULL ASSISTANCE:

- Single Senior – \$30,370 or less
- Senior Couple – \$48,620 or less

PARTIAL ASSISTANCE UP TO:

- Single Senior – Up to \$34,770
- Senior Couple – Up to \$56,820

HELP MAY INCLUDE:

-  Lawn Care & Snow Removal
-  Light Housekeeping / Home Help
-  Essential Household Items
-  Safety & Medical Supports
-  Personal Emergency Response Systems

(Items must meet program criteria.)



NEED HELP WITH THE FORMS?

You don't have to do it alone.

 **Community Services**
403-748-2160

Support is available to help seniors remain independent and age well at home.

LC's GREEN LAWN

Aerating • Overseeding • Fertilizing
Weed Control • Lawn Cutting

The Best in Lawn Care Services

403-805-2053

Grace Lutheran Church



Good Neighbor

Potluck Dinner

After our first Good Neighbor Potluck Dinner was such a roaring success, we are making it a monthly event on the last Friday of the month at 6:00 pm. There is no program planned – just great food and a visit with your neighbors. All are welcome, bring your friends! For more information or to get on our text or email list for a reminder call Mark or Joan at 403-748-2147

All activities are

the month

@ 6:00 p.m.

FREE

Stay & Play 
Playgroup-

Child ages 0-6 plus Caregiver
Friday @ Town of Bentley Office
Basement 9:30-11:30
Free play, craft, story & more!



Heather McLaren:
403-704-4600

Family Resource Network

Kids Klub 
Ages- 6 plus

After School program
Mondays @ Town of Bentley
Office Basement 3:15-5:15
Snack Included

FREE



To Register:
Barb Carson- 403-748-2160
Heather McLaren- 403-704-4600

FREE

SaturPlay
10-12
March 21/26
Basement of Bentley Town office
Bring your children!
Grab a coffee and meet new friends!



For information call Carolyn @ 403-896-3915




Family Resource Network

Stay & Play Themes

March 2026

Our Stay & Play mornings are a relaxed, caregiver-accompanied program designed for young children to explore, play, and connect at their own pace. Each week features simple, engaging activities that support early learning in a warm, welcoming environment.

Friday, March 6: Little Helpers at Play

Theme: Practical Life Play & Independence Focus: Fine motor skills, language development, and confidence-building

What to Expect: Children will explore simple "helper" play invitations such as scooping, pouring, wiping, sorting, transferring items, and caring for play materials using child-friendly tools (cups, spoons, cloths, containers, brushes, etc.). Caregivers are encouraged to model simple routines, name actions (pour, scoop, wipe, carry), and support children in trying tasks independently. This session supports coordination, early vocabulary, and confidence through meaningful hands-on play.

Friday, March 13: Lucky Little Learners

Theme: St. Patrick's Day Play & Color Exploration Focus: Fine motor skills, early math concepts, and social connection

What to Expect: Children will enjoy simple St. Patrick's Day-inspired play stations using materials such as green items to sort, and shamrock/coin-themed loose parts. Caregivers are encouraged to model color words, counting, and turn-taking while children explore. This session supports playful learning through color, sorting, and shared discovery.

Friday, March 20: Little Hands Art Studio

Theme: Process Art & Creative Exploration Focus: Fine motor skills, self-expression, and sensory exploration

What to Expect: Children will be invited to explore simple open-ended art materials such as crayons, washable markers, paper, glue sticks, tape, stickers, and recycled materials for creating. The focus will be on the process of exploring and making rather than a finished product. Caregivers are encouraged to sit alongside their child, talk about colors, shapes, and textures, and celebrate children's ideas and choices. This session supports creativity, fine motor development, and confidence through hands-on art play.

Friday, March 27: Stories, Puppets & Pretend

Theme: Imagination & Early Literacy Focus: Communication skills, pretend play, and social-emotional development

What to Expect: Children will explore story-inspired play with simple puppets, felt pieces, stuffed animals, and familiar books. Caregivers are encouraged to read together, retell simple stories, and join in pretend play by giving characters voices, actions, and feelings. This session supports early literacy, expressive language, and imaginative thinking in a relaxed, playful setting.

March 2026 Kids Club Themes

March 2: Build-a-Board Game (Paper Edition)

Theme: Creativity, rule-making, and collaborative problem-solving.
 Kids will work in small groups or as a whole group to design a simple board game using paper, pencils, and basic classroom materials. They will create a path, decide on rules, and add challenge or chance spaces (such as move ahead, miss a turn, or draw a card). This session encourages teamwork, planning, and flexible thinking as children test and adjust their ideas together.

March 9: Minute-to-Win-It Team Games

Theme: Cooperation, resilience, and problem-solving under pressure.
 Kids will take part in a series of fun, low-prep team challenges using simple materials (such as cup stacking relays, balloon keep-up, straw-and-pom-pom races, and more!) with short time limits. This session supports teamwork, flexible thinking, and perseverance while encouraging kids to cheer one another on and reflect on what helped their team succeed.

March 16: Lucky Challenges & Puzzle Quest

Theme: Logic, collaboration, and perseverance.
 With a St. Patrick's Day-inspired twist, kids will rotate through "lucky" challenges such as riddles, mini puzzles, scavenger clues, or teamwork tasks. The focus is on solving, trying new strategies, and working together rather than competition. If they get lucky, they might just find a prize!

March 30: Paper Plane Lab

Theme: Design thinking, experimentation, and perseverance.
 Kids will design, fold, test, and modify paper airplanes using simple materials while exploring how small changes affect flight. They may try challenges such as distance, accuracy, or airtime and compare different designs in a fun, low-pressure way. This session supports problem-solving, observation, and resilience as children experiment, make adjustments, and learn through trial and error.

Shout out to all the
 volunteers who work
 long hours
 so kids
 can enjoy
 sports!





There is a word we never use in the Emergency Services. It rhymes with 'diet' (another bad word) and starts with a Q. So far, 2026 has been...that word. With only 8 calls through the first 7 weeks of the year, we are well off the pace we had last year. So, I want to say a hearty congratulations for keeping yourselves safe over the past while.

Nevertheless, we are set for a very busy next few months in terms of training and events. Lacombe County is hosting a Firefighter Gala on March 14. This event will provide an opportunity to recognize members who have served for many years, as well as a few who have gone above and beyond in their service to your community.

On a more local level, the Bentley Fire Department is looking to have a 50/50 fundraising event with ticket sales beginning in March. Please look for these tickets in our local businesses and service organizations or ask your local firefighter if they have any left. All funds raised will go towards the Bentley District Fire Department.

Several members will also be busy taking some much-needed courses. These include: NFPA 470 – *Hazardous Materials/Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Standard for Responders*; NFPA 1021 - *Standard for Fire Officer Professional Qualifications*; and several Wildland Firefighting courses, including NFPA 1140 - *Standard for Wildland Fire Protection*. These intensive courses will enable our members to be even more effective in keeping themselves and their communities safe. The considerable time spent attending these courses will be in addition to the regular, Monday night practices they are already committed to.

Let's do a little firefighting trivia. First, because it is fun, and secondly, so that I can see if anyone is actually reading these updates. If you think you know the answer to this question, drop me an email at bentleyfire@townofbentley.ca with the subject line, **BFD Trivia** and make sure you leave your name and number so I can contact you. One person's name will be drawn for a \$20 gift certificate to a local business.



TYLER HAARSTAD

MEMORIAL BURSARY

Honouring Tenacity, Dedication,
Hard Work & Team Spirit On
and Off the Ice

Nominees must be enrolled in Bentley School and Blindman Valley Minor Hockey. Coaches nominate one player per team; winner chosen by draw.

2026 Winner Revealed at Bentley Arena Grand Re-opening

The recipient will receive paid enrollment in the Sylvan Lake Hockey Camp which combines quality coaching, positive culture, and age-appropriate training to help players grow their skills, confidence, and love for the game on and off the ice.

Here is this month's question:

The "Jaws of Life" are an important set of tools used by firefighters. When were they invented, and by whom?

Until next month, stay safe and take care.

Ian McLaren
Bentley District Fire Chief

Arena Grand Re-Opening
March 26, 2026
Established: 1965-1966

YOU'RE INVITED

5-6pm **Public Skate**

6:15pm **U5/U7 short game**

7pm **Opening Ceremonies**

7:15pm **Alumni and Celebrities Game In Memory and Honor of Tyler Haarstad**

Team of Bentley
the place to be



The Seniors Drop In Welcomes Everyone 55+

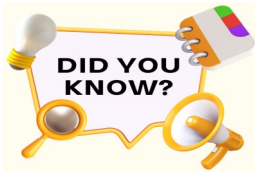
- Tuesdays 1 pm Socialize/cards/games
- Thursdays 1pm Socialize/cards/cornhole
- Potluck noon Last Tuesday each month

Loretta 403-748-4087

Diana 403-748-4024

Karen 403-748-4233

Located in Town Office 4918-50 Avenue



Community Services is here to assist in finding information and connecting citizens to government programs, family programs, seniors programs and more.

We provide direct programming and also partner with local organizations, service providers and outlying communities to enhance what can be offered to our citizens.

Our mandate is early intervention prevention thereby we look at programs/services which may enhance the quality of life for individuals, provide opportunities to enhance skills and resiliency, as well as reduce social isolation.

Programs **cannot** be primarily recreational. If you are aware of a program which may be beneficial to our citizens, please let us know.

We are located in the Bentley Long Term Care, available **by appointment**.

The Bentley Boutique clothing recycling program is also located in the Care Centre and is open Tues/Thurs 10-noon and 1-3pm.

403.748.2160 community@townofbentley.ca
Follow us on FB
Community Services - Town of Bentley

Central AB Women's Emergency Shelter 1.888.346.5643

Suicide Distress Line 1.800.SUICIDE (784.2433) Suicide Crisis Helpline 988

Hope for Wellness Chat 1.855.242.3310

Kid's Help Phone 1.800.668.6868

Alberta Mental Health Helpline 1.877.303.2642

Health Link 811

211 Alberta - find programs/services

Indigenous Support Line 1.844.944.4744

Addiction Helpline 1.866.332.2322

Crisis Text Line - text CONNECT to 741741

Bullying Helpline 310.1818

Child Abuse Hotline 1.800.387.5437

Dementia Advice 811

Income Support Contact Centre 1.866.644.5135

Poison & Drug Information Service 1.800.332.1414

It's always beneficial to have certain important numbers readily available for emergencies and everyday needs. Keep contact information for the local hospital, poison control center, and personal doctor.

It's also wise to have numbers for roadside assistance services, especially if you travel frequently. Include the contact details of trusted neighbors or nearby family members who can assist in urgent situations.

Don't forget to save numbers for utility services like electricity, water, and gas companies to report outages or issues.

Lastly, keep the phone numbers of your workplace, children's schools, and any other organization pertinent to your daily life. Having these numbers easily accessible can save valuable time and provide peace of mind.

This paper is produced by....

FCSS - Community Services



Contributions by citizens, non-profits, service providers and businesses are welcome.

Paid and "in kind" space available. A variety of delivery methods:

postal, social media, around Town and the Town website to help people be in the know!

Call 403.748.2160 or email community@townofbentley.ca to submit



REGISTRATION FOR 2026-27 OPENS JAN 5



BRIGHT FUTURES PLAY ACADEMY

Two & four half day programs available for 3 & 4 year olds Mon/Wed or Tue/Thur mornings

HIGHLIGHTS

- Certified Classroom Teacher and Experienced Support Staff
- A focus on Excellence in Developing the Whole Child
- Developing Skills Intellectually, Artistically, Emotionally, Physically and Socially
- Access to Support Services, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy and Speech and Language Services
- Family Orientated Programming and Partnership with Community Programming

KINDERGARTEN TO GRADE 12

KINDERGARTEN

Will your child be 5 years old by December 31 of this year? Two full day programs available with transportation. Days offered are based on registration numbers.

**REGISTER BY MAR 31
DON'T MISS IT!**

<https://bentley.wolfcreek.ab.ca/registration>

PHONE: 403-748-3770

<https://bentley.wolfcreek.ab.ca/>

<https://bentley.wolfcreek.ab.ca/https-www-brightfuturesplayacademy-ca>



Program Coordinator

Vickie 403-506-8642

The Blessing Pantry has food set up at the Library for people to access.



This is available free, to bless you, when the Library is open.

Hampers Available Year Round - contact Vickie

Tuesday 10:00 AM - 05:30 PM
Wednesday 10:00 AM - 05:30 PM
Thursday 12:00 PM - 07:30 PM
Friday 10:00 AM - 05:30 PM

Bentley Minor Ball

OPEN REGISTRATION

2026 Tentative Schedule

BASEBALL REGISTRATION LINK

[HTTPS://MYACCOUNT.SPORDLE.COM/LOGIN?C=BASEBALL](https://myaccount.spordle.com/login?c=baseball)

U5 TBALL - TUESDAY	5 - 5:45PM	2021/2022
U7 RALLY- TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS	5 - 5:45PM	2019/2020
U9 ROOKIE - TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS	6:00PM	2017/2018
U11 - MONDAYS & WEDNESDAYS	6:00PM	2015/2016
U13 - TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS	6:00PM	2013/2014
U15 - MONDAYS & WEDNESDAYS	6:00PM	2011/2012
U18 - TBD	6:00PM	2008/2010

SOFTBALL REGISTRATION LINK

<https://rampregistrations.com/login?v3=df71bf93a0>

U11 SB - MONDAYS & WEDNESDAYS	6:00PM	2015/2016
U15 SB - TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS	6:00PM	2011/2012

REGISTER BY GOING TO SPORDLE FOR BASEBALL AND RAMP REGISTRATIONS FOR SOFTBALL. YOU MAY NEED TO CREATE AN ACCOUNT IF YOU HAVE NOT BEEN ON SPORDLE OR RAMP BEFORE. U11 AND UP ARE REQUIRED TO PAY A JERSEY DEPOSIT OF \$50.

LATE FEES APPLY AFTER MARCH 15TH, NO MORE REGISTRATIONS AFTER APRIL 1ST. PLEASE NOTE THAT BENTLEY MINOR BALL WILL COVER UP TO \$500 DOLLARS TOWARDS TOURNAMENTS FOR LEAGUE PLAY DIVISIONS. OUR SEASON RUNS FROM THE END OF APRIL - END OF JUNE.

WWW.BENTLEYMINORBALL.CA



BASEBALL QR CODE



2026 FEES

U5 \$75
 U7 \$125
 U9 \$175
 U11 \$225
 U13 \$225
 U15 \$225
 U18 \$225

U11 SB \$225
 U15 SB \$225

SOFTBALL QR CODE



MARCH

BENTLEY MUNICIPAL LIBRARY



MOVIE NIGHT

elio

In this fun-filled, action-packed cosmic misadventure, Elio, a space fanatic with an active imagination, is beamed up to an interplanetary organization with members from galaxies far and wide. Mistaken for Earth's leader, Elio must form bonds with alien life-forms, navigate an intergalactic crisis, and discover who and where he's truly meant to be.

KIDS EVENTS

-  **Blue Bin**
Every Tuesday
-  **Nature Skool**
Tuesdays 10 : 30 - NOON
-  **Profiling Art**
Thrusday March 12 @3 : 30
-  **Baby Bookworms**
Wednesday, March 11@10 : 30

Adult Paint Night (16+)

Come enjoy a night of art and creativity

Friday March 13 @6 : 00PM

Register by March 11

403-748-4626

limited spaces

FREE

WRITE YOUR OWN SONG

Community Songwriting Workshop

March 21 - 22 11 - 3 Ages : 16+

Register : 403-748-4626

FREE

Available at front desk

Mar Book Pick

When the World Fell Silent

BY: Donna Jones Alward

JR Craft Tales

Scratch Cards

Mar Spice Club -

Chili Flakes



HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY

Bentley Museum



WINTER has arrived again: We are hoping for an early SPRING now.

Fall and Winter Hours
Wednesday 9:30 am - Noon
Or by Appointment

FAMILY DAY FEBRUARY 16, 2026

Family Day was the most successful Open House for our Museum. We had approximately 175 visitors. It was so nice to see new face and familiar faces. The kids really enjoyed their dinosaur craft. We served 7 crockpots of chili and 3 ½ slabs of cake. Thanks, you to everyone who spent Family Day with us and a huge thank you to our volunteers.

Our next Open House will be **Canada Day July 1, 2026.**

There are still a few Dick Damron CD's and books are available at the Museum - No Charge

Contacts: Rick: 403-304-0353 Diana: 403-748-4024

Bentley Community

Hall

AGM

Tuesday March 31

7 pm

At the Hall

All community members
are welcome.

Snacks and juice/coffee provided.



March 21/26

Mayor Hansen

Councillor Klinger

April 18/26

Deputy Mayor
Grimsdale

Councillor Rogers

Seniors Drop In
10:30am till 12:00pm

The Town of Bentley Coffee with Council is intended to allow residents to meet with their elected officials in a relaxed and informal atmosphere to bring forward any ideas, suggestions, or topics that matter to you.

COFFEE WITH COUNCIL



We look forward to seeing you www.townofbentley.ca there for good coffee and great discussions.



Volunteer Drivers Needed



Bentley Community Van

587-877-1002

Trips depend on driver availability



TRIP CHANGES

2nd Wednesday - Red Deer shopping
3rd Wednesday - Lacombe post office/shopping
4th Wednesday - Sylvan Lake shopping
These trips are open to everyone!
No Charge - donations accepted

Please contact our coordinator for more information and book your seat!

DID YOU KNOW?
Community Groups may be able to use the van?
LET'S TALK!

be in the know

2026 Animal License Tags

As per Bylaw 152/2011 All dogs and cats in the Town of Bentley require a tag. Animal control license tags may be purchased at the Town office. Applications may be obtained at the Town office or on the website.

Until January 31, 2026

Spayed or Neutered \$25.00

Unaltered male or female \$35.00

February 1 to December 31, 2026

Spayed or Neutered \$35.00

Unaltered male or female \$45.00





Monday - Friday 8am to 3pm 403.748.4044
info@townofbentley.ca www.townofbentley.ca

Council meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday evening monthly at 6:30 pm

Agendas and meeting packages are posted on the Town Website Fridays prior to each Council Meeting. Citizens are encouraged to keep themselves educated on Town Council and Administration activities via these documents.

Public is welcome and encouraged to attend Council meetings.

To attend as a delegation, please contact Town Office for the proper procedure to do so.



2026 Animal License Tags - As per Bylaw 152/2011 All dogs and cats in the Town of Bentley require a tag. Animal control license tags may be purchased at the Town office. Applications may be obtained at the Town office or on the website.

spayed/neutered \$35, unaltered \$45. PURCHASE BEFORE JAN 31/25 AND SAVE \$10.

Please remember to scoop the poop!!



Business Licenses - With a few exceptions, all Commercial and Home based businesses in the Town of Bentley require a valid yearly Business License. This also applies to those businesses and services that are not located in the town of Bentley but are coming into town to conduct business or provide a service. The application form can be found on the Town's website or picked up at the Town office.

Monthly Tax installment - Payments are an option with the Town of Bentley. For more information on this program, please call the town office or drop in and speak with one of our staff.

Utility Payment Agreements - We offer auto withdrawal from your bank for your Town Water, Sewer & Garbage utility payments. We are also offer emailed utility billings rather than a paper copy, your choice.

Waste Transfer Station & Recycling Bins

403-748-3961

Thursday 9am-4:45pm
Friday 9am-4:45pm
Saturday 1pm-4:45pm

CLOSED stat holidays

Enhanced Property Tax & Utility Services in Bentley

The Town of Bentley is pleased to announce upgrades to our property tax software, making it easier than ever to manage your accounts.



NEW Property Tax Features

- Email delivery of Taxation Notices & Property Assessments
- Automatic Debit Withdrawal for Property Taxes



Current Services

- E-Billing for Utility Bills
- Automatic Debit Withdrawal for Utility Payments
- Monthly Property Tax Payment Agreements



Stay organized, go paperless, and enjoy the convenience of automated payments.

For more information:
 Stop by the Municipal Office (Mon-Fri | 8:00 AM-3:00 PM)
 Phone: 403-748-4044
 Email: info@townofbentley.ca | cgibson@townofbentley.ca



be in the know

It's time to renew your annual Business License

Business Licenses and Promotion

Businesses with a license can be found on our Town Website for potential customers and people exploring Bentley.

If you operate a business in Bentley you are required to obtain a license.

If you are providing a business service in Bentley you are required to obtain a license. ie. contractors, cleaners

Home Based businesses may also require a license - have you checked?

Lets Promote The Great Businesses in Bentley!

The Website will be updated soon!

Reach out to Town Office to get your license or download it from the Town Website.
403-748-4044 www.townofbentley.ca

You do not have to be a member of the Seniors Drop In to attend the Wellness Mornings



Over 55 Wellness Mornings
Mondays/Wednesdays
Seniors Drop In - Town Office
Call 403-748-2160



Last class of the year on Dec 17th

Seated Range of Motion Exercises

Wednesdays 10:30 to 11:45 am

Chair Yoga - light movements



Move your body, make connections & socialize!

SHARING WALKING STICKS FOR 2026

Bentley Community Church Since 1931 PAOC
Everyone welcome to join us for our 10 AM Service
Children's special time after songs,
Friendship refreshments after every service.
4824 50th Street Bentley
Pastor Greg Rathjen. Serving Bentley Since 1987 403-357-0188

Bentley Boutique
Bentley Long Term Care
Recycle eh! **West Entrance Beside Bay Door**
Open Tues/Thurs
10am-12pm 1pm-3pm
IT ONLY COSTS A SMILE!

BUDGET APPROVED
Community Services
403.748.2160
VARIETY OF ITEMS FOR ALL GENDERS, AGES AND SIZES!
A Bentley Community Services Outreach Program

Members of the public are welcome to share thoughts, concerns, and ideas with Mayor and Council on the...

2ND TUESDAY EACH MONTH AT THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
NO MEETING JULY OR DECEMBER

Time allotted to members of the public will be 5 minutes per presentation, which will allow up to 3 delegates to present in open mic per session.

These sessions and presentations will be recorded in the minutes for the meeting and will occur after the regular council meeting is called to order. Meetings are at 6:30 unless otherwise posted.

www.townofbentley.ca

8 March SUNDAY
SPRING FORWARD 2026

As we settle into the first few months of 2026, Mayor and Council would like to extend our warmest wishes to all our residents. We are excited to begin another year of working together to keep Bentley a vibrant and welcoming place to call home. Our focus remains on responsible governance, transparency, and staying connected with all of you.

Planning for Our Future: The 2026 Budget

We kicked off the year by approving the **2026 Preliminary Budget**. This serves as our roadmap for the year ahead, ensuring we have the necessary framework to support our municipal operations and community priorities. Council continues to provide careful fiscal oversight through regular financial reviews to ensure your tax dollars are working effectively for the town.

Infrastructure & Public Works

In January, Council reviewed quarterly reports from our dedicated **Public Works and Parks** teams. We want to extend a huge thank you to these crews for their tireless efforts in keeping our roads clear, our facilities running, and our green spaces beautiful—even in the depth of an Alberta winter!

Bentley Arena Grand Reopening

The wait is over! **The arena upgrades are finished and we are now ready to celebrate!** We have recently approved a new concession lease to ensure you have great food and drink options while you cheer on our local teams.

Please join us for the grand reopening and a very special evening of community and hockey:

- **5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.:** Public Skating
- **6:15 p.m.:** U5/U7 Short Game
- **7:00 p.m.:** Official Opening Ceremonies
- **7:15 p.m.:** Alumni and Celebrities Game (In Memory and Honor of Tyler Haarstad)

FCSS & Community Services Update

During our recent meetings, Council received an inspiring presentation from **Family and Community Support Services (FCSS)**. Their mandate of "early intervention and prevention" continues to strengthen our town's social fabric. Key highlights include:

- **The Bentley Boutique:** This clothing recycling program has operated for over 20 years! Located in the Care Centre, it provides "next-to-new" clothing at no cost, helping families stretch their budgets while promoting sustainability.
- **Community Connections:** We are incredibly grateful for a recent donation from a County resident, which will go directly toward programming that enhances the lives of both Town and County neighbors.
- **Volunteer Impact:** Community organizations and their volunteers remain the backbone of Bentley. If you have a few hours to spare, our community services team would love to connect with you and help you connect with an area of interest!

Supporting Our Community

Council has also been busy reviewing the **2026 Recreation and Culture Grants**. These grants are a vital way for the Town to support the local organizations and programs that bring so much life and energy to Bentley.

We also want to recognize the incredible work of our **Bentley District Fire Department**. Chief Ian McLaren reported a record-breaking 2025 with 148 calls. We are proud to welcome Saki Matsenjwa to the team and congratulate Jeff Vert on his new role as Deputy Fire Chief.

Looking Ahead to March

As we transition into spring, keep these dates and services in mind:

- **Tax Assistance:** Community Services, in partnership with Rimbey FCSS, will be offering simple tax filing for qualifying Bentley & RR1 Lacombe County residents—connect with FCSS for eligibility details. 403-748-2160 An intake tax clinic will take place on March 18th.
- **Seniors Wellness Mornings:** Our popular "Movers & Groovers" (Mondays) and Chair Yoga (Wednesdays) continue through March at the Town Office.
- **Spring Break:** Please be mindful of increased pedestrian traffic as local schools head into Spring Break starting **March 21**.
- **Bentley Museum:** Volunteers have been busy refreshing displays! Wednesday mornings are a great time to visit.

Important Reminders

- **Business Licenses:** Annual renewals are due! All local and home-based businesses require a valid 2026 license.
- **Animal Licensing:** Don't forget to pick up 2026 tags for your dogs and cats at the Town Office.

Join the Conversation

We truly value your input and hope to see you at our upcoming community events:

- **Coffee with Council:** Join us for an informal chat on **March 21 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.** at the Municipal Office (Seniors Drop-In Centre).
- **Council Meetings:** Our regular meetings are held on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m.
- **Open Mic Night:** We invite you to speak directly to Council during the **"Open Mic" session held at the first meeting of every month**. Thank you for being such an engaged and supportive community. We look forward to a productive, bright, and busy year ahead!

Town of Bentley

Municipal Development Plan Update – Community Survey

Introduction

The Town of Bentley is updating its Municipal Development Plan (MDP), which guides long-term growth and development. This short survey is intended to gather community input on key priorities and future directions. Your participation is important and will help shape the future of our community.

The MDP is a long-range planning document that guides decisions related to housing, growth, services, transportation, land use, and infrastructure over a 10–20-year period. When answering the questions, please consider both current priorities and the long-term future of the community.

(Estimated completion time: 15 minutes)

Section 1: About You

Q1. How are you connected to Bentley? (check all that apply)

- Resident Business Owner Property/Landowner Employee Visitor Other: _____

Why your answer matters:

This helps ensure feedback reflects a variety of perspectives from people who live, work, own property, or spend time in Bentley.

Q2. How long have you lived in or been connected to Bentley?

- Less than 5 years 5–10 years More than 10 years Not a resident

Why your answer matters:

Long-term and newer community members may have different experiences and priorities. This helps provide context about who is responding.

Section 2: Community Vision & Values

Q3. The current MDP emphasizes Bentley’s small-town character and quality of life.

- Strongly Agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly Disagree

Why your answer matters:

This indicates whether the vision of the existing MDP still reflects community values or if it should evolve.

Q4. Bentley’s brand is “The Place to Be,” reflecting small-town character while supporting growth, affordability, and opportunity. Do you agree that Bentley should balance maintaining small-town character while attracting investment and growth?

- Strongly Agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly Disagree

Why your answer matters:

Substantial engagement informed Bentley’s brand and investment attraction efforts. This question confirms whether the community supports continuing this balanced approach.

Q5. The 2024 Bentley Community Strategic Plan states:

“The Town of Bentley is a community offering a high quality of life that is safe, clean, attractive, affordable, and family-oriented. Bentley celebrates community spirit where citizens are actively involved in shaping the future of the community as ‘The Place to Be.’”

Do you agree with this statement?

- Strongly Agree
 Agree
 Neutral
 Disagree
 Strongly Disagree

If you feel this vision should change, please share your thoughts:

Why your answer matters:

This question helps confirm alignment between the MDP and the 2024 Community Strategic Plan.

Q6. How important should each of the following priorities be in guiding Bentley’s future?

Priority	Very Important	Important	Neutral	Not Important	Not at All Important
Maintaining small-town character	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Managing growth responsibly	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Housing affordability and choice	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environmental sustainability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Economic development and jobs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community health and well-being	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Infrastructure efficiency	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Investment incentives	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please indicate any other priorities not listed above:

Why your answer matters:

These priorities help guide long-term decisions related to services, growth, and infrastructure.

Section 3: Growth & Land Use

Q7. How satisfied are you with the current pace of growth in Bentley?

- Very Satisfied
 Satisfied
 Neutral
 Dissatisfied
 Very Dissatisfied

Please provide comments explaining your answer:

Why your answer matters:

This helps determine whether growth policies should encourage slower growth or maintain current development levels.

Q8. Please indicate your level of support for the following growth approaches.

Growth Approach	Strongly Support	Support	Neutral	Oppose	Strongly Oppose
Infill and redevelopment <i>(new buildings on vacant or underused lots within existing neighbourhoods)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Expansion at the edge of Town	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
A mix of infill and edge development	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please provide any additional comments:

Why your answer matters:

This helps guide where future development should occur within or around the community.

Section 4: Housing

Q9. Bentley offers a suitable range of housing options for different ages and incomes.

Strongly Agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly Disagree

If you disagree, please describe what housing types you would like to see:

Why your answer matters:

Identifies perceived gaps in housing availability and affordability.

Q10. Importance of encouraging the following housing types over the next 10–20 years.

Housing Type	Very Important	Important	Neutral	Not Important	Not at All Important
Single-detached homes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Duplexes / semi-detached	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Townhouses	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Apartments / multi-family	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senior’s housing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rental housing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Why your answer matters:

Supports zoning and policy decisions related to housing needs and priorities.

Section 5: Economy & Community Services

Q11. Importance of the following economic priorities.

Economic Priority	Very Important	Important	Neutral	Not Important	Not at All Important
Supporting local businesses	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Attracting new businesses	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Expanding employment lands	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tourism and community events	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maintaining a residential focus	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please provide any additional comments:

Why your answer matters:

Helps balance economic growth with community character and social well-being.

Q12. Current community services and facilities meet residents' needs.

Strongly Agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly Disagree

If you disagree, what services or facilities would you like to see in the future?

Why your answer matters:

Helps prioritize services and facilities while recognizing budget limitations.

Section 6: Environment, Transportation & Infrastructure

Q13. Environmental sustainability should be a priority in future development decisions.

Strongly Agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly Disagree

Why your answer matters:

Supports consideration of environmental impacts such as drainage, watershed protection, wildlife, and green space.

Q14. Sidewalks, trails, and road networks are generally safe and adequate.

Strongly Agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly Disagree

Please provide additional comments:

Why your answer matters:

Highlights transportation safety and infrastructure improvement needs.

Q15. Infrastructure capacity should influence where and how Bentley grows.

Strongly Agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly Disagree

Please provide additional comments:

Why your answer matters:

Addresses the balance between infrastructure costs, developer contributions, and long-term growth.

Section 7: Long-Term Planning

Q16. Working with neighbouring municipalities is important to Bentley's long-term success.

Strongly Agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly Disagree

Please provide additional comments:

Why your answer matters:

Assesses support for regional collaboration and partnerships.

Q17. Bentley should plan for long-term growth beyond current town boundaries.

Strongly Agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly Disagree

Please provide additional comments:

Why your answer matters:

Helps identify future land needs and growth direction.

Section 8: Final Priorities

Q18. What ONE issue should the updated Municipal Development Plan focus on most?

Why your answer matters:

Allows you to highlight your top concern in your own words.

Q19. Do you have any other comments or concerns related to the MDP that were not covered in this survey?

Thank you for your input.

Community feedback will help guide Council's decisions on future growth and development of our community.
