



Need a garden suite?

In the past year, there has been a lot of emphasis on the concept of “aging in place.”

This is the idea of assisting elderly people so that they can stay in their home community, even if they can no longer stay in their own homes and care for themselves.

One way Woodlands County is helping with this concept is through our Garden Suites Bylaw. The bylaw has actually been around for a few years and has been used in certain circumstances.

A garden suite is a building that is portable, meaning not permanently fixed to the ground, that is added to a rural property.

The suite is a separate building where a relative — either through blood relation, marriage or adoption — can live. The person or people living in the suite must have a dependency on the land owner, whether it is a financial dependency, physical or mental.

In order to have a garden suite on your property, you must apply for a permit, which then has to be renewed every two



years. Permit applications are reviewed by the municipal planning commission, which then decides whether to approve the application or not.

When the garden suite is no longer needed, it must be removed from the rural property.

Originally, the Garden Suites Bylaw was enacted to assist residents in caring for their elderly parents. However, the bylaw was later expanded to include other relatives, not just seniors, who have a dependency and need a home.

After the bylaw was originally created, the County received requests from parents wanting to help give their adult children a place to stay during the huge real estate boom. Not every new couple starting out or young family can afford to buy their own home. The Garden Suites Bylaw gives parents the ability to put a second, temporary building on their land to help their adult children while they save for their own home.

To learn more about garden suites visit our website at www.woodlands.ab.ca and click the “**Council**” tab and then look under the “**Policies and Bylaws**” option.

More information can also be found out by calling Woodlands County at 1-888-870-6315.

Your smile for the day ☺

A sign seen on a plastic surgeon’s office door reads, “Hello. Can we pick your nose?”