

Council Highlights



An initiative Designed to Keep **YOU** Better Informed of Council Decisions and Initiatives

August 25, 2014

FireSmart – Council awarded the tenders to Infinite Forestry Consulting Ltd. to conduct FireSmart work on crown land in the area between Highway 40 and Resources Road, south of the Correction Line and north of Tamarack Estates and the Dunes. The County will be treating 65 hectares of dead and dying pine stands by removing approximately 50 per cent of the standing and blown down trees. Over the duration of this project, for safety reasons, the County highly recommends residents, businesses and the public avoid the area and refrain from using off-highway vehicles on the trails. The County received grant funding from the Forest Resource Improvement Association of Alberta.

Regional Fire Service Quarterly - Fire Chief Everett Cooke provided a first and second quarter report. The Fire Service received 626 service calls throughout the County and issued 1117 fire permits.

Fire Prevention – The fire prevention branch conducted 47 investigations and 20 inspections. Over 380 students in ten schools participated in the Learn Not to Burn program. County residents and businesses are encouraged to attend the information session on August 28; and bring wood debris, branches and deadfall from their yard to the County FireSmart Wood Waste Clean-up events throughout the month of September. The information session will take place on Thursday, August 28 from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Evergreen Park Entrec Centre parking lot where County and ESRD staff will provide residents and businesses with information about ideal products and equipment they should be using; permits; and the various FireSmart programs available to effectively keep their yard and property free of wildfire hazards.

Residents have the opportunity to drop off their wood debris, branch and deadfall from their yard at the following times and locations:

- Saturday, September 6 - 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Wapiti Heights (located on Township Road 704A and Range Road 72)
- Saturday, September 13 - 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Mystic Ridge (located Range Road 65, south of Township Road 710)
- Saturday, September 20 - 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Lawra Estates (located on Range Road 54, north of Township Road 712)
- Saturday, September 27 - 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Aspen Ridge (located on Township Road 713 and Range Road 50)

Grade Three Reading University – Council made a motion to contribute \$10,000 to the Grade Three Reading University for this year and provide the same amount annually. The summer program is offered to children from across the region at a grade 3 level who would like to improve their reading skills. Council has supported the program since its inception.

Men At Risk Video – Council approved \$3000 in funding for the Suicide Prevention Resource Centre to develop a Men At Risk awareness video focused on the agriculture industry. This production will target people who operate farm businesses and those who are working off the farm to keep their business financially viable. The purpose of the video is to provide information about identifying people at risk for mental health problems.

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County of Grande Prairie No. 1

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Muscular Dystrophy – Council proclaimed September 2014 as Muscular Dystrophy Awareness Month in the County of Grande Prairie.

Employee Introductions – Council welcomed Cory Rigler, Peace Officer; Justin Thomas, Parts Runner; Jodi-Rae McIntosh, Data Entry Clerk; Sheila White, Help Desk; Matt Chalus, Weed Inspector; Michelle Przybilla, Herbicide Applicator; Sarah Starr, Herbicide Applicator; and Renae Robson, Weed Inspector.

Next Council meeting is September 8, 2014. These meetings are held in the Council Chambers at the County Administration Building.

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