

# COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS



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

**August 10, 2015**

**County Strategic Priorities Chart** – Council approved the latest update of the County’s strategic priorities chart which solidifies the County’s upcoming priorities and outlines how the County will continue to be a progressive, forward-thinking municipality while maintaining its values of safe, viable communities, fiscal responsibility, environmental protection, and effective regional partnerships. To view the chart, visit [www.countygp.ab.ca/stratplan](http://www.countygp.ab.ca/stratplan)

**Tour of Alberta** – The County of Grande Prairie is hosting Stage 2 of the third annual Tour of Alberta on Thursday, September 3 with the City of Grande Prairie hosting Stage 1 on Wednesday, September 2. During Stage 2, approximately 120 professional cyclists from around the world will begin racing at 11:40 a.m. at Evergreen Park, completing a 171.6 km stretch making their way through several areas of the County. Heading back to the County, racers will complete two laps of a 20 km loop along Highway 40 in the M.D. of Greenview featuring a 1.5 km climb before returning to Evergreen Park around 3:30 p.m.

Festivities will be taking place at the start and finish lines at Eastlink Centre on September 2 and Evergreen Park on September 3. Both festivals will feature top television networks from around the world broadcasting live on location as well as fun for the entire family including live entertainment, interactive vendors, local food vendors, and fun activities. Residents can visit [www.countygp.ab.ca/toa](http://www.countygp.ab.ca/toa) for information including traffic impacts, volunteer opportunities, and more.

To build the excitement for this event, the County is hosting County Maze Daze at Country Roads RV August 22-23 from noon-6 p.m. The

weekend features free family activities including games in the Tour of Alberta shaped maze, bouncy castles, cow train, face painting, jump pad, live entertainment, wagon rides and a bbq.

**STARS** – Council presented Glenda Farnden, STARS Senior Municipal Relations Liaison, and Greg Schnidt, STARS Base Director Grande Prairie Operations, with a Community Assistance Grant cheque for \$150,000. This is the third installment of a three year commitment for a total contribution of \$450,000 (2013-2015). Since 2007, the County has contributed over \$1 million in support of STARS. Council deferred to budget deliberations a request for \$200,000 for the next three years. Council will write a letter to the Alberta Minister of Health encouraging a review of provincial funding levels to STARS.

**County Receives Health and Safety Training Award** – Alberta Municipal Health and Safety (AMHSA) presented the County of Grande Prairie with a 2014 Safety Training Recognition Award. The County – one of six municipalities who received this award – has been recognized for providing the highest number of trained participants per capita. This is the second award we have received from AMHSA and it illustrates the County’s continued commitment to ensuring employees have received appropriate occupational health and safety training as well as demonstrates the dedication to health and safety and the protection of our employees.

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**Wedgewood Estates Land Issue** – Council passed a motion to provide a grant to fund 50%, to a maximum of \$35,000, for a geotechnical study being undertaken by some homeowners in the subdivision to determine the cause of slumping occurring in the backyards of select properties that back onto Bear Creek. Some subdivision homeowners had previously made a presentation to Council requesting financial aid.

**Bezanson Tank Loading Facility Upgrades** – Council approved upgrades at the Bezanson water treatment plant that will increase the capacity at the tank loading (fill station) to improve and expand residents' and agricultural producers' access to water. Alberta Agriculture had previously approved funding under the Peace Region Water Hauling Infrastructure Program.

**Access Road to Philip J Currie Dinosaur Museum** – Council approved funding the sub-grade preparation, granular base, engineering and line painting in the amount of \$96,125.83 and receive confirmation from the Town of Wembley of the Developers Agreement including the endeavor collection for the road costs of approximately \$150,000. Knelsen Sand & Gravel will donate all labor, equipment and materials to install the asphalt surface estimated at an additional \$50,000.

**Tax Sale Date Change** – Council set December 18, 2015 as the tax sale date.

**Natural Gas Storage Facility** – Several landowners attended Council to voice their objections to the proposed construction of a natural gas storage facility in their area. The County will write a letter of concern in relation to the alignment of the pipeline that supports the facility. The County has filed an objection to the Alberta Energy Regulator in regards

to the application filed by Terado Gas Storage to construct a gas storage facility at 08-25-71-07-W6M. The facility would be comprised of a multi-well pad site, pipeline inlets, three 18,000 horsepower has turbine compressors and related infrastructure.

**Holiday Office Hours** – County offices will be closed December 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> and the 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Next Council meeting will take place on August 17, 2015.**

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